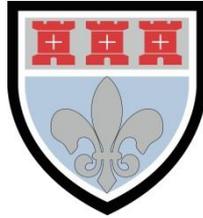


# Summer work for Opted RE in 6<sup>th</sup> Form



Dear Student,

In this pack, you will find work that you are to complete over the summer in preparation of starting your RE course in sixth Form. There are three sections to this work - what you must do, what you should do and what you could do.

All this work is to be brought back into school in the first week and handed in to **Mrs Blackburn**.

Please feel free to write on the sheets themselves and the A4 paper that has been supplied for you to use.

Some of the tasks are asking you to think in a different way and so may appear to be a bit strange. Have perseverance and complete the work to the best of your ability.

We look forward to teaching you this course.

Mrs Blackburn



## 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM OPTED RE SUMMER WORK 2018

This work will prepare you for some of the key terms that you will encounter in the lessons. It will also get you thinking about your own arguments relating to different topics that will be explored in lessons.

**This is to be handed in to Mrs Blackburn the first week back.**

### You Must

#### PHILOSOPHY

- Start to reflect on reasons why people believe in God. On paper create a list of at least six reasons why people believe in God.
- For each reason decide whether or not you believe it is well-reasoned and logical. (Remember this is simply your opinion and a way to start you thinking in a more critical way).

**Read the following extract by J.S Mill, which is a response to the Design Argument, which you looked at, at GCSE.**

"In sober truth, nearly all the things which men are hanged or imprisoned for doing to one another are nature's every-day performances. Killing, the most criminal act recognised by human laws, Nature does once to every being that lives; and, in a large proportion of cases, after protracted tortures such as only the greatest monsters whom we read of ever purposely inflicted on their living fellow creatures.

....A single hurricane destroys the hopes of a season; a flight of locusts, or an inundation, desolates a district; a trifling chemical change in an edible root starves a million of people. The waves of the sea, like banditti, seize and appropriate the wealth of the rich and the little all of the poor with the same accompaniments of stripping, wounding, and killing as their human antitypes. Everything, in short, which the worst men commit either against life or property is perpetrated on a larger scale by natural agents....

If there are any marks at all of special design in creation, one of the things most evidently designed is that a large proportion of all animals should pass their existence in tormenting and devouring other animals. They have been lavishly fitted out with the instruments necessary for that purpose; their strongest instincts impel them to it and many of them seem to have been constructed incapable of supporting themselves by any other food...

If we are not obliged to believe the animal creation to be the work of a demon, it is because we need not suppose it to have been made by a Being of infinite power. But if imitation of the Creator's will as revealed in nature were applied as a rule of action in this case, the most atrocious enormities of the worst men would be more than justified by the apparent intention of Providence that throughout all animated nature the strong should prey upon the weak."

**J.S Mill - Essays on Religion**

Answer the questions on the next page to show your understanding.



1. Recall the Design Argument. Explain the key points in at least 50 words.
2. Bullet point at least four points that you think John Stuart Mill is making.
3. Choose two quotes from the text and explain what you think they mean and whether or not you agree with the opinions of Mill.

## CHRISTIANITY

Read the following extract and answer the questions

God is a delusion – a “psychotic delinquent” invented by mad, deluded people. That is the take-home message of *The God Delusion*. Although Dawkins does not offer a rigorous definition of a delusion, he clearly means a belief that is not grounded in evidence – or worse, that flies in the face of the evidence. Faith is “blind trust”, in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence.” It is a “process of non-thinking.” It is “evil precisely because it requires no justification, and brooks no argument.” These core definitions of faith are hardwired into Dawkins’ worldview and are obsessively repeated throughout his writings. It is not a Christian definition of faith but one that Dawkins has invented to suit his own polemical purposes. It immediately defines those who believe in God as people who have lost touch with reality – as those who are deluded.

1. What do you think Dawkins means by “Faith is blind trust”?
2. How may faith be a “process of non-thinking”?
3. Why does Dawkins believe that those who are religious are deluded?
4. Do you agree with Dawkins and his view of faith? Explain your view with supporting reasons.

## THE TRINITY

List six things you know about -

- (a) God the Father
- (b) God the Son
- (c) God the Holy Spirit

## THE NICENE CREED

*Read the Nicene Creed and then answer the questions that follow.*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



### Questions to answer

1. What are the challenges someone may find when reading the Nicene Creed?
2. The creed is a statement of beliefs. Do you think it is important to have such a statement of beliefs? Give two reasons for your point of view.

### You Should

Research the following people:

Philosophy	Christianity
✓ William Paley	✓ Martin Luther
✓ Anselm	✓ Karl Barth
✓ St Thomas Aquinas	✓ Karl Rahner

Make summaries on each person. Include at least six pieces of information about each person in your summaries.

### You Could

To help you to begin thinking about Ethics you could complete the following work.

- (a) Research Joni Eareckson Tada relating to equal rights
- (b) Research the Gaia Hypothesis relating to the Environment
- (c) Research Jeremy Bentham and his theory of Utilitarianism

Keep a copy of the research you do. Hand in any information you find out about these key people.