



SAFFRON WALDEN
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

SWCHS SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK

A Level Religious Studies

TASK
<p><u>Summer Work 2023</u></p> <p>If you have any queries regarding this work please email apopple@swchs.net</p> <p><u>Task</u></p> <p>There are 4 tasks which cover topics such as an introduction to Philosophy and an active reading and active listening tasks for Christianity.</p> <p><u>How will this work be used in lessons?</u></p> <p>This will be used with the lessons on introducing the Religion: Christianity element (timeline and pre-reading of the Patristic period to give the students some sense of the early church and its foundations).</p> <p><u>How long will this task take?</u></p> <p>3-4 hours</p>

Religious Studies Summer Work

Dear Religion, Philosophy and Ethics students,

Well done for having selected a great course to study! That's right: Eduqas A Level Religious Studies is actually made up of three core components: Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Our summer work for you is preparing you in the core skills in RS so that the transition is smoothed. This is a great introduction to the skills needed in the subject. The main focus for the summer work is to introduce you to the skills needed in the subject. We have based task 1 around the short book *Philosophy: The Essential Study Guide* by Nigel Warburton. There are copies in the sixth form study centre, or you can get a copy for a few pounds second hand if you would like to read more. Tasks 2 and 3 are to refamiliarise yourself and develop your understanding of Christianity.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to welcoming you in September!

Miss Carne, Mrs Popple and Miss Gilmartin

Task 1: Introduction to *Philosophy*

Read the short introduction to philosophical study from the *Essential Guide* [HERE](#)

Make some short notes focusing on:

1. What makes philosophy different from other subjects?
2. Why might the historical details and biography be important when considering a thinker?
3. What does Schopenhauer say about the difference between a scholar and a thinker?

4. What are Warburton's 4 skills?
5. Why does he emphasise the *active* part of these skills?

Task 2: Active reading (see PDF The Patristic Period)

This chapter is taken from '*Christian Theology: An introduction*' by Alister McGrath who is regarded as one of the world's leading Protestant theologians and is the author of some of the world's most widely used theological textbooks. The first chapter focuses on the foundations of the Christian Church in what is known as *The Patristic Period* (c. 100- c. 700). Understanding the historical and religious context into which Christianity was born; from its humble beginnings as a sect of Judaism to the global faith we know today; is extremely important.

Once you have read the chapter, please create a timeline of Christianity within this period. Within your timeline include information relating to question 4 on p 19 on the controversies the church faced along with the associated theologians.

Task 3: Active listening

Podcasts are an excellent resource for Religious Studies. This podcast focuses on the Person of Christ. In the Patristic Period there were many controversies relating to the person of Christ. Was He fully human or fully divine? Was He a human with a part of God or a unique combination of both humanity and divinity? **As you are listening note down ideas you think are important including the historical evidence of Jesus as well as the Jewish understanding of the coming of the Messiah.**

[DCT - The Person of Jesus Christ](#)

Task 4: Active discussion & Active writing

Active discussion is obviously a hard one to set if you are potentially not going to be interacting with others on your course before September! As such this task is asking for some active writing, which will then feed into our discussion in some of your first lessons in our first unit of Religion: Religious figures and sacred texts.

From your learning in tasks 1-3, research an image of Christ which supports one of the schools of thought about the person of Jesus or represents one of the controversies that arose in the Patristic Period. Write no more than 300 words about the background to the image and your interpretation of the artist's impression of Christ.

These are a few examples you could use:



FIGURE 1: JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS 'JESUS OF NAZARETH'



FIGURE 2: PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA 'THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST'



FIGURE 4: RAPHAEL 'THE TRANSFIGURATION'

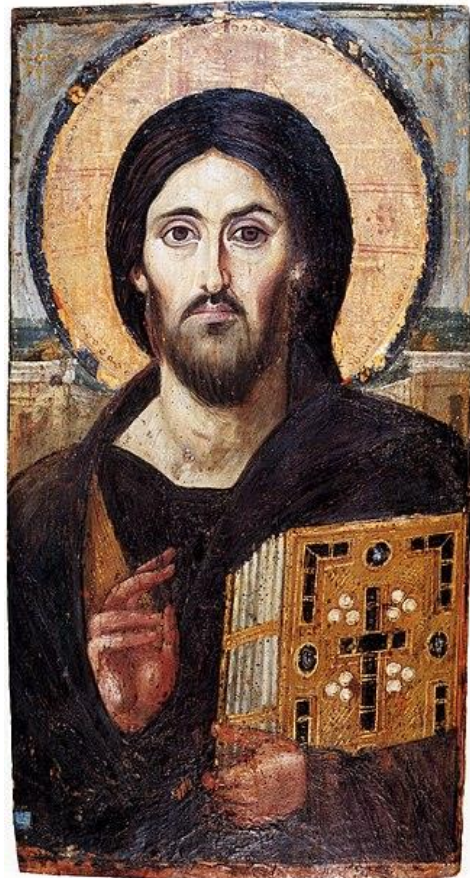


FIGURE 3: THE OLDEST SURVIVING PANEL ICON OF CHRIST PANTOCRATOR C. 6TH CENTURY