

Ethics, Philosophy and Theology

Year 8 Knowledge Organisers

Term 2: Philosophy of Religion



Topics Covered

- What is Philosophy?
- Is there a God?
- If there is a God what is he like?
- Can you prove God is real?
- How was the world made?
- Did the world have a designer?
- Could God have made the world out of nothing?
- If God is all loving, why is there evil in the world?
- What do Humanists believe? What do Atheists believe?
- Is God involved with the world?
- Conscience
- Freud
- Marx
- Artificial Intelligence
- Evaluation of these different ideas
- What is your opinion?

Useful Links:

Different Philosophical ideas

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkdk382>

Can you prove God is real?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRj_Oe1FXXA

Atheism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAekxgY9Wc4>

Omni words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSZiUDgKzAU>

What is philosophy?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY

Freud and religion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U440mcsebE>

Marx and religion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogj1B0NlevY>

What is AI?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ad79nYk2keg>

Challenge yourself. Practice questions.

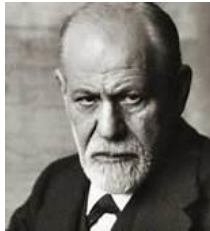
1. Choose 3 religions and describe what they believe God is like.
2. Research 2 different ideas about how the world was made
3. Can something come from nothing?
4. What is the meaning of life? Why do humans exist?
5. Explain Freud's idea of the Primal Horde
6. Is religion the opium of the people?
7. Will AI ever replace humans?

Philosophy of Religion

Agnostic	A person who believes it's impossible to know anything about the existence or nonexistence of God and is unwilling or unable to commit either way.
Analogy	The likening of one thing to another based on similarity of features. E.g. The sun is like a ball in the sky
Argument	A reason on favour or against something
Atheist	A person who believes that there is no god or gods.
Conscience	The sense that allows a person to decide between right and wrong actions.
Cosmology	The science of the origin, development, and structure of the universe.
Design	To make or plan for a goal, purpose or end result
Dilemma	A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different things you could do
Evidence	The facts and information that prove something to be true
Explanation	The act or process of making clear in speech or writing
False consciousness	Thinking that stops working class from seeing how they are oppressed
Humanism	A mode of thought that gives highest importance to human dignity, values, potentials, and achievements.
Karl Marx	German Philosopher and atheist. Described religion as the opium of the people. Started Marxism
Omnipotent	Having unlimited power
Omnipresent	The presence of God everywhere and at the same time
Omniscient	All-knowing
Opium of the people	Marx compared religion to opium which is an addictive painkiller and vision creating drug.
Origins	The point or place from which something comes.
Philosophy	The study of some of the most basic questions about human life. Philosophy deals with how people experience reality and how people behave.
Primal Horde Theory	Freuds ideas that religion started when early man killed the leader of the tribe, regretted it, put his body on a totem pole and in their feeling of guilt worshipped him.
Proof	Any material that prove something is true or real
Purpose	A reason or plan that guides an action; design or goal.
Scientific	Having to do with science – the system of studying, testing, and experimenting on things in nature.
Sigmund Freud	Austrian neurologist and Psychoanalyst who studied the unconscious mind
The Big Bang	Around 13.8 billion years ago, the Universe was born in a colossal explosion known as the Big Bang. This produced two things: matter and energy. The Universe formed in a tiny fraction of a second. At this point, it was very dense and incredibly hot.
Theist	A person who believes that there is a God or gods.
Unexamined	Not looked at closely and carefully
Universe	All matter and energy; all existing things, including the earth and heavens.

Sigmund Freud: Primal Horde Theory

Freud believed that God was invented way back in time when people lived in tribes. The tribal leader was in charge, and had all the main benefits, e.g. best food and all the women. No-one else was allowed to have sex with a female. This made the young men angry. They decided to kill the tribe leader (also their dad...). A few days later, they felt guilty. They got the body and put him on top of a totem pole. They prayed to him for forgiveness and to get rid of their guilt.....religion had started



Karl Marx “Religion is the opium of the people”

Marx’s most well-known quote regarding religion is that it is ‘the opium of the people’. Opium is a drug that dulls the senses and helps one forget the miseries of the present. He infers that it is the same with religion. The whole of Marx’s quote is, “*Religious suffering is, at one and the same time, the expression of real suffering and a protest against real suffering. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.*”

What does he mean? Religion tries to make you feel better in a world that can at times be bad. He describes it as a protest, showing that suffering should not happen. Today, opium is associated with negative things in society like drugs, addicts, organised crime etc. At the time of Marx it was different. Opium was seen as a useful and cheap medicine. Marx himself was an addict. He saw good and bad in it. Did he mean that like opium, “Religion may be source of hope, a way of curing an illness, a sigh for a better world; but it is also a result of world out of kilter, and may even be a source of harm in its own right.” (Roland Boer) He leaves it ambiguous – maybe we will never know what he meant!

Problem Of Evil

If God is All knowing, all loving and all powerful, then why has he made a world where there is evil? For example, why are there volcanoes, and tsunamis that kill so many people? Why do people do evil things to each other e.g. murder?

If God is All knowing, all loving and all powerful, why did he not make a world where people are able to live a long happy life without suffering? Why didn’t he make a perfect world where tectonic plates are fastened together so there are no earthquakes? If he is all powerful and all loving surely, he would have wanted to do this? If God is all powerful did he actually want a world where evil exists? Might evil and suffering have some sort of purpose? A lot of people think that because evil exists God does not exist.

Some people have thought to explain why there might be suffering in the world. Some think that it is to teach us lessons. Others think it is a punishment from God. Some say we will only see the reason for suffering when we get to heaven and see God’s big picture, the whole of a plan for us. We might not understand the reason for suffering now, but we will later. Theologians and Philosophers have thought about this a lot.

For more info on these see:

https://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Problem_of_evil

Challenge yourself on Artificial Intelligence: Think about

- Can AI developed and programmed by humans ever become more intelligent than us?
- Will AI take over the world – or is science fiction simply that – fiction?
- Is using AI ethical?
- Will AI ever pass the Turing Test?
- Will there ever be a human AI hybrid?