

WATCH
THIS!

- Louis Theroux Documentaries
- The Good Place series
- The Platform
- The Two Popes
- Matrix
- Green Book
- Morgan Freeman:
The Story of God
series

NETFLIX

•[Why study Philosophy and Ethics: Religious Studies?](#)

•[Crash Course Philosophy](#)

•[Justice with Michael Sandell](#)

•[Wireless Philosophy](#)

•[Qualia Soup](#)

•[MrMcMillanREvis](#)

You Tube



LISTEN

Podcast on the
'[Socratic Method](#)' [13m]

James Wilson '[Real World
Ethics](#)' [20m]

Pansycast - [Episode 137,
Between God and Atheism:
Live in London \(Part I - The
Debate\)](#) [50m]



Audio Books:

[Loyal Books](#)

[Learn Out](#)

[Loud](#)



Session 3: Make your own choices on what to watch – this is for information purposes but will definitely help in discussing the topics for the various component of the course. Complete the tasks below.

Extras

TED talks – these are usually wonderful, with plenty to stimulate your questioning and reasoning skills.



Some Examples:

- Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?
- Michael Schur – How Ethics Can Help You Make Better Decisions
- Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions.
- Richard Dawkins – militant atheism
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists.
- Damon Horowitz – Philosophy in prison
- His Holiness the Karmapa: The technology of the heart
- Playlist: Are you there, God? (11 talks)
- Matthieu Ricard: The habits of happiness
- Alain de Botton – A Kinder, Gentler Philosophy of Success
- Kwame Anthony Appiah - Is religion good or bad?

There's a wide range of talks available here, so make use of the search tool to find topics that capture your interest. Practice your note-taking skills by writing down key points as you listen, just as you would during an in-person lecture. Focus on capturing the main ideas quickly. When the talk ends, reflect on it: What were the speaker's main messages? Do you agree with them? How might someone with a different perspective respond, and what reasons might they have?

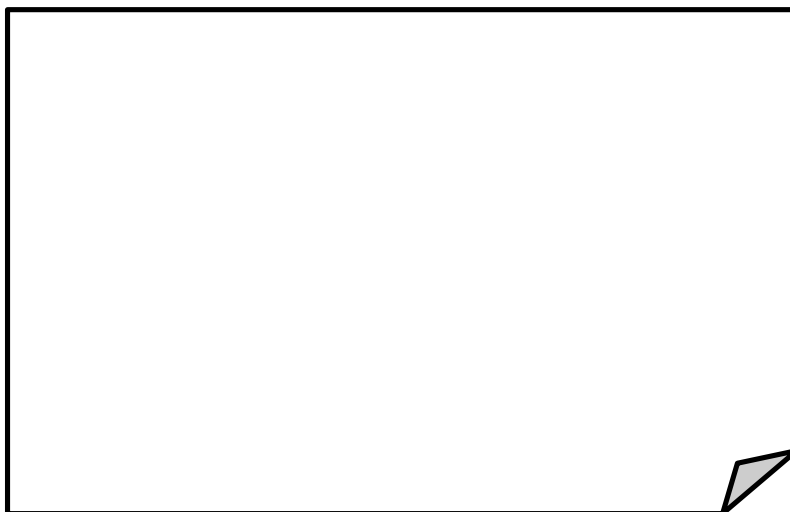
Body, Mind and Soul

Activity 1

Watch this documentary, **Barra Boy**

[The Boy Who Lived Before - Full Documentary](#)

1. Do you think the story provides convincing evidence for reincarnation? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think counts as 'convincing evidence' for life after death (e.g. scripture, near death experiences, nothing)? What makes evidence convincing or unconvincing?
3. Do you find these stories convincing? Why, or why not?
4. Do you think the stories contradict each other, or are they just told from different points of view, in your opinion? What might account for the differences and the similarities between the stories?



Sexual Ethics

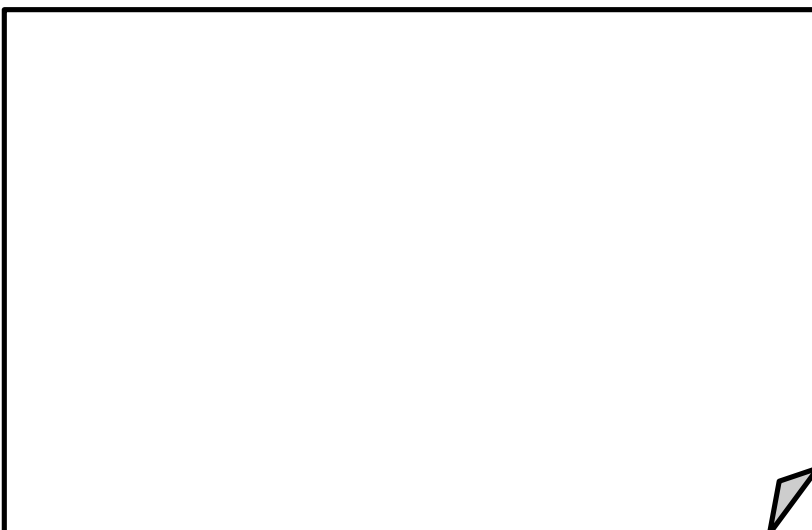
Activity 2

This is the first episode of a documentary about attitudes towards homosexuality
[BBC | Stephen Fry: Out There | Episode 1](#)

This is the first episode of Stephen Fry's series 'Out There, where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world.

Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning.

1. Do you think there is a 'right' attitude and a 'wrong' attitude towards homosexuality? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?
2. Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don't agree with them. Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?
3. What do you think are the aims of this television series? Do you think they are good aims? Do you think this first episode is successful in achieving its aims?
4. What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?



Research



There are all kinds of resources online and in books to help you, if you want to start to learn a little more about some of the philosophers you will meet in your A Level course.

Use Wikipedia as a starting point and follow some of the links in the articles. You could do some research about:

People	Other
• Aristotle • Augustine • Aquinas • Bentham • Darwin • Dawkins • Freud • Hume • Hick • Kant • Mill • Plato	• Marxism • Atheism • Judaism – Holocaust • Feminism Modern Thinkers & Ethics • Peter Singer – Preference • Utilitarianism and animal ethics. • Alasdair MacIntyre – • Simone de Beauvoir – Existentialist • ethics and feminism.

Practise using a variety of sources to research a single individual. Once you've gathered a broad range of information, try to bring it together and express it in your own words as a single piece of writing.

Most common questions asked.



Do you need to have a belief in God?

Absolutely not! Every class has a diverse mixture of students, some who believe in God, some who question God, some who do not believe in God and some who are just not sure. All students are interested in developing their views.

Do you learn about world religions?

The course is directed towards learning about different philosophers' views towards religion, so it does not focus on world religions in general. One third of the course studies Christianity though which focuses upon questioning, exploring and debating philosophically aspects within Christianity. Sometimes parallels are drawn between ideas contained within other religions, for example Hinduism and Judaism.

What do you do in lessons?

Within most lessons a particular argument or philosopher is explored such as Plato and his views. The students then have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the arguments and work out any strengths and flaws based on their own opinions. We then work through activities and finally link the work to exam preparation.

Do you need to have done RS at school

Absolutely not! As the course focuses on philosophers views most students have never studied or even heard of most of the arguments.... That's why it is so exciting! With this in mind every lesson goes over the arguments slowly and there is always an opportunity to ask or answer questions. It is however recommended that you have a strong grasp of English as the exam is essay style answers and therefore there is often a lot of writing involved in class to prepare for this.

I hope you're keeping well and feeling excited about starting your next chapter at Thomas Telford School. TTS is a brilliant place to grow, learn, and discover what you're truly capable of.

As C.S. Lewis once said, "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." I can't wait to welcome you in September!