

Summer Bridging Work - A Level Religious Studies

Part 2 – Philosophy

Philosophy is making sense of the world around us

As we grow we question everything, nothing is a bigger question than how did the world come into being and of course the religious idea of is there a God? Philosophy tries to make us look beyond what we have learnt to accept, to go beyond our routine and question the world around us.

Task 1: Read these quotes and WRITE in great detail (1 side) what you think they mean:

“Let's say you're walking around and you find a watch on the ground. As you examine it, you marvel at the intricately complex interweaving of its parts, a means to an end. Surely you wouldn't think this marvel would have come about by itself. The watch must have a maker” Paley

“That principle is condemnation before investigation.” Paley

Task 2: Read the PDF Natural Theology and answer the questions:

1. What is your understanding of the PDF what was Paley attempting to theorise?
2. Where would you have assumed the watch to have come from? Would you have questioned its origins at all? Discuss
3. What is the watch representing in Paley's analogy? And once you have worked this out who is the watchmaker an analogy for?
4. Taking Paley's idea of design further I want you to research 3 animals/plants in the wider world that show design and create a fact file on: What they are, where they are in the world and how they show design e.g. is it they are adapted for their environment? How?

