

General Philosophy Suggested Books

<u>Title/Author</u>	<u>Central themes/issues</u>
<p>Access to religion and philosophy: Philosophy of Religion By P Cole</p>	<p>This book examines key issues including the proofs for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering and the relationship between mind, body and religious language. It provides a solid basis for those who are starting A level courses in Religious Studies or Philosophy. Features include:- Key questions throughout the chapters to help students focus on the key issues- Key terms defined and explained throughout the chapters- Profiles of key individuals - their contribution and significance - More summary diagrams throughout to aid revision- Revision checklists at the end of chapters- exam-style questions and tips at the end of each chapter</p>
<p>Philosophy of Religion: Towards a More Humane Approach By J Cottingham</p>	<p>John Cottingham's Philosophy of Religion opens up fresh perspectives on the philosophy of religion, arguing that the detached neutrality of much of contemporary philosophizing may be counterproductive - hardening us against the receptivity required for certain kinds of important evidence to become salient. This book covers all the traditional areas of the subject, including the meaning of religious claims, the existence of God and the relation between religion and morality, as well as the role of spiritual praxis and how religious belief affects questions about the meaning of life, human suffering and mortality. While preserving the clarity and rigor that are rightly prized in the analytic tradition, the book also draws on insights from literary and other sources, and aims to engage a wide readership.</p>
<p>An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion By B Davies</p>	<p>In this book, Brian Davies provides a critical examination of some fundamental questions posed by religious belief.. The book is highly accessible and covers all the key elements of a course in the philosophy of religion</p>
<p>Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology By B Davies</p>	<p>Is it possible to be both a philosopher and a religious believer? Is philosophy a friend or foe to religious belief? Does talk of God make sense? Does God exist? What is God? Essential for anyone pondering these and similar questions. Carefully edited by Brian Davies, it contains a wide-ranging selection of 65 of the best classical and contemporary writings on the philosophy of religion, together with substantial commentary, introductory material, discussion questions, and detailed guides to further reading. Part I of the book examines the relation between philosophy and religion; Parts II-IV consider the existence and nature of God; Part V addresses the "problem of evil" that has puzzled thinkers for centuries; and Parts VI and VII are devoted to the relationship between morality and religion and to the question of life after death.</p>
<p>The Philosophy of Religion By J Hick</p>	<p>Introduction to the philosophy of religion, in the Foundations of Philosophy series, covering the concept of God; arguments for and against the existence of God; the problem of evil; revelation and faith; evidentialism, foundationalism, and rational belief; religious language; the problem of verification; the conflicting truth claims of different religions; immortality and resurrection; karma and reincarnation</p>
<p>Philosophy of Religion for A Level By A Jordan, N Lockyer & E Tate,</p>	<p>Text book designed for a previous A Level course. Easy to read and in includes the Ontological argument, Cosmological argument, Design argument, Moral argument, the problem of evil, arguments from religious experience and challenges to religious belief. At the end of the book there are handy revision summaries.</p>
<p>An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion By M B Wilkinson</p>	<p>Aimed at A Level students this book look ion detail at the attributes of God, arguments for and against the existence of God, religious language, realism and anti-realism, religious experiences and the afterlife.</p>

General Philosophy suggested websites

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
https://hwb.gov.wales/resources/tree?sort=created&language=en&tags=Religious%20education&tags=A/AS&nodeId=19ab0f1b-6b90-4fb0-b593-15391564bb31	Challenging Religious Issues magazine
www.dialogue.org.uk	Dialogue: a journal of religion and philosophy
http://www.philosophers.co.uk/	The Philosophers' Magazine
www.philosophypages.com	Provides basic philosophical information
http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/	Peter Baron's A level Religious Studies site
http://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/teachers/	Provides detailed resources for key themes

Philosophy Theme 1 Suggested Books

<u>Title/Author</u>	<u>Central themes/issues</u>
God and Proof (Philosophy of Religion) By J Lee	Small pamphlet – easy to read and a great summary for this theme.
The Question of God: An Introductory Commentary and Sourcebook. By M Palmer	This important textbook introduces the six great arguments for the existence of God, as found in a wealth of primary sources from classic and contemporary texts. It requires no specialist knowledge of philosophy, and is ideally suited to students and teachers at school or university level. Sections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Ontological Argument (Anselm, Haight, Descartes, Kant, Findlay, Malcolm, Hick) * The Cosmological Argument (Aquinas, Taylor, Hume, Kant) * The Argument from Design (Paley, Hume, Darwin, Dawkins, Ward) * The Argument from Miracles (Hume, Hambourger, Coleman, Flew, Swinburne, Diamond) * The Moral Argument (Plato, Lewis, Kant, Rachels, Martin, Nielsen) * The Pragmatic Argument (Pascal, Gracely, Stich, Penelhum, James, Moore). Additional features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * revision questions * key reading for each chapter and an extensive bibliography

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * illustrated biographies of key thinkers and their works * marginal notes and summaries of arguments.
<p>The Puzzle of God By P Vardy</p>	<p>A clear, well-written guide to philosophical thinking about God. Starting with the question of what it means to say we believe in God, and looking at the nature of truth, Peter Vardy goes on to examine ideas about God and their influence on Christian thinking.</p> <p>Peter Vardy takes the reader through the arguments, using amusing illustrations and analogies. He writes for the lay person or student, not assuming any specialist knowledge, and not imposing any particular view.</p>
<p>The Thinker's Guide to God By P Vardy and J Arliss</p>	<p>The attempt to define what we mean by God, and indeed goodness, has been the central pre-occupation of western religion and philosophy. Can one have goodness without God? Is goodness real or do we create it? Does the understanding of God change through our own scriptures? Where does our understanding of God and goodness come from? How does it relate to other virtues, particularly those of beauty and truth? What is the role of reason? What about the ways other cultures approach reality, and how can traditions live peaceably together? Peter Vardy concisely explores the range of approaches to God that has influenced the western Christian tradition in an easy-to-read, popular style.</p>

Philosophy Theme 1 Suggested Websites

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
https://www.reasonablefaith.org/	Website on Craig/Leibniz/Cosmological argument
http://www.talkorigins.org/	Scientific responses to creation/evolution debate
http://www.philosophers.co.uk/	A guide to famous philosophers
http://www.iep.utm.edu/ded-ind/	A detailed overview of inductive and deductive argument

Philosophy 2 Theme Suggested Books

<u>Title/Author</u>	<u>Central themes/issues</u>
<p>Atheism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) By J Baggini</p>	<p>Atheism is often considered to be a negative, dark, and pessimistic belief which is characterized by a rejection of values and purpose and a fierce opposition to religion. <i>Atheism: A Very Short Introduction</i> sets out to dispel the myths that surround atheism and show how a life without religious belief can be positive, meaningful, and moral. It also confronts the failure of officially atheist states in the Twentieth Century. The book presents an intellectual case for atheism that rests as much upon positive arguments for its truth as on negative arguments against religion.</p>
<p>The Oxford Handbook of Atheism By S Bullivant. & M Ruse</p>	<p><i>The Oxford Handbook of Atheism</i> is a pioneering edited volume, exploring atheism—understood in the broad sense of 'an absence of belief in the existence of a God or gods'—in all the richness and diversity of its historical and contemporary expressions. Bringing together an international team of established and emerging scholars, it probes the varied manifestations and implications of unbelief from an array of disciplinary perspectives (philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology, demography, psychology, natural sciences, gender and sexuality studies, literary criticism, film studies, musicology) and in a range of global contexts (Western Europe, North America, post-communist Europe, the Islamic world, Japan, India). Both surveying and synthesizing previous work, and presenting the major fruits of innovative recent research, the handbook is set to be a landmark text for the study of atheism.</p>
<p>The God Delusion By R Dawkins</p>	<p><i>The God Delusion</i> caused a sensation when it was published in 2006. Within weeks it became the most hotly debated topic, with Dawkins himself branded as either saint or sinner for presenting his hard-hitting, impassioned rebuttal of religion of all types.</p> <p>Dawkins attacks God in all his forms. He eviscerates the major arguments for religion and demonstrates the supreme improbability of a supreme being. He shows how religion fuels war, foments bigotry and abuses children.</p>
<p>Evil and the God of Love By J Hick</p>	<p>"If God is all-powerful, then he must be able to abolish evil; if God is all-loving, then he must wish to abolish evil; but evil exists, therefore God cannot be both all-powerful and all-loving." So runs the traditional statement of the problem of evil.</p> <p>John Hick's classic <i>Evil and the God of Love</i>, first published in 1968, set the contours for all subsequent discussion of the problem. He was responsible for identifying two different responses in the Christian tradition. The first and major response, expounded by Augustine, places all the blame for evil on fallen creatures (both human and angelic). Because of their disobedience the creation has been marred. On this view, evil serves no purpose in the plan of God. The second response is found in Irenaeus. Here evil and suffering are among God's means for creating souls fit for heaven. Humanity was created immature; and life is a vale of soul-making. Hick is a passionate advocate of the second view.</p>
<p>Problem of Evil (Philosophy of Religion) By R Luhman</p>	<p>This is a booklet that is specifically written with AS level students in mind. It presents a clear and concise introduction to the main issues surrounding the problem of evil, including the initial definition of the problem as well as sections on the Freewill defence, Irenaean/Augustinian/process theodicies, animal suffering and the argument from the greater good. The booklet concludes with examples of possible exam questions as well as recommending further reading.</p>
<p>The Twilight Of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World By A McGrath</p>	<p>A former atheist who is now one of Christianity's foremost scholars, McGrath traces the history of atheism from its emergence in eighteenth-century Europe as a revolutionary worldview that offered liberation from the rigidity of traditional Christianity and the oppression of tyrannical monarchs, to its golden age in the first half of the twentieth century. Blending thoughtful, authoritative historical analysis with incisive portraits of such leading and influential atheists as Sigmund Freud, Marx and Richard Dawkins, McGrath exposes the flaws at the heart of atheism and argues that the renewal of faith is a natural, inevitable and necessary response to its failures.</p>

<p>Freud and Jung on Religion By M Palmer</p>	<p>Michael Palmer provides a detailed account of the theories of religion of both Freud and Jung and sets them side by side for the first time. In the first section of the text Dr Palmer analyses Freud's claim that religion is an obsessional neurosis - a psychological illness fuelled by sexual repression. The second section considers Jung's rejection of Freud's theory and his own assertion that it is the absence of religion, not its presence, which leads to neurosis.</p> <p><i>Freud and Jung on Religion</i> is suitable for general and specialist reader alike, as it assumes no prior knowledge of the theories of Freud or Jung and is an invaluable teaching text.</p>
<p>God, Freedom and Evil By A Plantinga</p>	<p>In <i>God, Freedom, and Evil</i> Alvin Plantinga (AP) attempts to rebut the logical problem of evil [i], which posits that the following two propositions [i] are inconsistent:</p> <p>(1) God (an omnipotent and perfectly good being) exists (2) Evil exists</p>
<p>God and the Problem of Evil By W Rowe</p>	<p><i>God and the Problem of Evil</i> brings together influential essays on the question of whether the amount of seemingly pointless malice and suffering in our world counts against the rationality of belief in God, a being who is said to be all-powerful, all-knowing, and perfectly good.</p>
<p>Jung: A Very Short Introduction By A Stevens</p>	<p>In this concise introduction, Anthony Stevens explains clearly the basic concepts of Jungian psychology: the collective unconscious, complex, archetype, shadow, persona, anima, animus, and the individuation of the Self. He examines Jung's views on such disparate subjects as myth, religion, alchemy, 'synchronicity', and the psychology of gender differences, and he devotes separate chapters to the stages of life, Jung's theory of psychological types, the interpretation of dreams, the practice of Jungian analysis, and to the unjust allegation that Jung was a Nazi sympathizer. Finally, he argues that Jung's visionary powers and profound spirituality have helped many to find an alternative set of values to the arid materialism prevailing in Western society.</p>
<p>Where Was God: Evil, Theodicy, and Modern Science By G Stillwell</p>	<p>Why is there evil in a good God's world? Why do bad things happen to good people? Does the fact of evil in the world prove that God does not exist? Can modern science help us answer those questions? These are the subjects of: <i>Where was God: Evil, Theodicy, and Modern Science</i>.</p>
<p>Freud: A Very Short Introduction By A Storr</p>	<p>Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, developed a totally new way of looking at human nature. Only now, with the hindsight of the half-century since his death, can we assess his true legacy to current thought. As an experienced psychiatrist himself, Anthony Storr offers a lucid and objective look at Freud's major theories, evaluating whether they have stood the test of time, and in the process examines Freud himself in light of his own ideas. An excellent introduction to Freud's work, this book will appeal to all those broadly curious about psychoanalysis, psychology, and sociology.</p>

[Philosophy Theme 2 Suggested Websites](#)

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
http://ethiconline.co.uk/product/the-problem-of-evil/	Film by Joe Jenkins available to buy on DVD or download.

http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-problem-of-evil	The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy - The Problem of Evil
https://www.iep.utm.edu/n-atheis/	Information about New Atheism

Philosophy Theme 3 Suggested Books

<u>Title/Author</u>	<u>Central themes/issues</u>
Miracles By N Cantwell	Short pamphlet giving an overview aimed at A Level students, easy to read.
Access to Religious Studies: Religious Experience by P Cole	Religious Experience looks at the ways we can define religious experience and at religious experience as a basis for faith. It looks at religious experience within the major world religions and explores the role of mystery in religious practice along with the ways in which a sense of the supernatural is created in worship. The book compares the views of those who believe that religion centres around personal experience against those who believe that too great a stress on personal experience leads toward a spiritual elitism. Religious Experience includes quotations from primary sources, including sacred texts, suggestions for further reading, and practice questions for the various awarding bodies.
Religious Experience, by W Dossett	This comprehensive new introduction looks at spiritual experiences from past to present, from the experiences of the founders of the major world religious traditions to events in the lives of ordinary people today. Mystical and Near Death Experiences are included. Examples are drawn from a variety of sources, including original accounts from the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre Archive at the University of Wales, Lampeter as well as many given to the author in person. Interpretations of these experiences follow, from religious, philosophical and scientific viewpoints. Various questions are considered. Is there a common core to spiritual experience? Do these experiences offer proof of the existence of God or of the possibility of survival of death?
The Evidential Force of Religious Experience By C. Franks-Davis	This study examines the nature of religious experiences and whether they can be used as evidence for religious beliefs. Davis discusses the important philosophical issues raised by religious experience, such as the role of models and metaphors in descriptions of religious experience, and the way experiences in general are used as evidence for claims about the world. Using contemporary and classic sources from the world religions, she gives an account of different types of religious experience and, drawing extensively on psychological and sociological as well as philosophical literature, deals with skeptical challenges about religious experiences.
The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature By W James	The American psychologist and philosopher William James penned the classic The Varieties of Religious Experience in 1902, establishing a uniquely scientific and charitable method of thinking about religion. Originally delivered as a series of the renowned Gifford lectures, the chapters of the Varieties examine the lives of more than two hundred believers who had known profound religious transformation. Philosophy. It is still in print today, more than 100 years later. Focusing on individual experience and respectfully analysing common themes and elements in believer's own powerful words, James changed the way generations of scholars and Christians alike have thought about the elements of faith

Miracles Coursebook & Study Guide, By C. Jarmy	Looking through history and across cultures with explanations of theories by leading thinkers - both scientific (Hume) and theological (Wiles) - this guide explores the philosophical concepts used to interpret miracles, their religious significance, and how they are viewed around the world.
The Question of God: An Introductory Commentary and Sourcebook. By M Palmer	This important textbook introduces the six great arguments for the existence of God, as found in a wealth of primary sources from classic and contemporary texts. It requires no specialist knowledge of philosophy, and is ideally suited to students and teachers at school or university level. Sections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Ontological Argument (Anselm, Haight, Descartes, Kant, Findlay, Malcolm, Hick) * The Cosmological Argument (Aquinas, Taylor, Hume, Kant) * The Argument from Design (Paley, Hume, Darwin, Dawkins, Ward) * The Argument from Miracles (Hume, Hambourger, Coleman, Flew, Swinburne, Diamond) * The Moral Argument (Plato, Lewis, Kant, Rachels, Martin, Nielsen) * The Pragmatic Argument (Pascal, Gracely, Stich, Penelhum, James, Moore). Additional features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * revision questions * key reading for each chapter and an extensive bibliography * illustrated biographies of key thinkers and their works * marginal notes and summaries of arguments.
Revelation and Religious Experience By J Webber	Short pamphlet giving an easy to read overview of revelation and religious experience. Aimed at A Level students

Philosophy Theme 3 Suggested Websites

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/alister-hardy-religious-experience-research-centre/	Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre
http://www.philosophyofreligion.info/theistic-proofs/the-argument-from-miracles/	Overview of miracles and Hume's challenges.
http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/Chapter%203%20Religion/CH-3-Documents/ch3-Swinburne-possibility-Miracles.pdf	Article that presents Swinburne's defence of miracles.

Philosophy Theme 4 Suggested Books

<u>Title/Author</u>	<u>Central themes/issues</u>
Religious Language By P Cole and J Lee	Short pamphlet aimed at A Level students giving an overview of the ideas and thinkers needed for religious language.
Religious Language Coursebook By S Loxton	How can we speak about God, who is wholly "other"? This complex question lies at the heart of a new and insightful analysis of the meaning of analogy, symbol, myth and verifiability as Stephen Loxton sets the empiricists against the insights of modern theologians in the quest for a comprehensible language for God.
Religious Language By I. T. Ramsey	In this book, Professor Ramsey attempts to show how the concern of contemporary philosophy with language has implications for theology--its claims and apologetic, its problems and controversies. He argues that, far from being necessarily irreligious, logical empiricism provides us with a tool that can be of the greatest service to theology, making possible, between philosophy and theology, not only a new cooperation but a new venture altogether
Religious Language By M Scott	An original and accessible discussion of the nature of religious language that draws on the latest research in the philosophy of language. The historical background to research on religious language is also explored and connections are made with both Continental Philosophy and Theology.
Metaphor and Religious Language By J M Soskice	Christian theology has suffered in modern times from an inability to explain its traditional reliance on metaphor to an audience intellectually formed by empiricism. The author argues that what is needed is not a more "literal" theology, but a better understanding of metaphor. Soskice offers here an account of metaphor and religious language that not only illuminates the way in which theists speak of God, but also contributes to our understanding of the workings of metaphor in scientific theory and other disciplines.

Philosophy Theme 4 Suggested Websites

<u>Link</u>	<u>Description</u>
https://mrlivermore.wordpress.com/category/a2-level/religious-language-a2-level/	Religious Language Philosophy of Religion
http://www.iep.utm.edu/rel-lang/	Detailed examination of religious language debate.
http://www.philosophypages.com/hy/6s.htm	Overview of Wittgenstein's language games theory.