

Preparation for A Level Religious Studies
Year 11 into Year 12 Summer Transition Work – New Testament

This will enable you to:

- Get up to speed with some of the passages of the New Testament that you are required to study as part of the New Testament side of the course.
- Become familiar with some of the New Testament texts and try to understand some of the meaning behind it.
- Start the process of trying to learn the texts by heart, as you will not have access to the texts in an examination.
- Begin to understand some of the issues connected with the texts.

What you have to do:

- Read through the texts thoroughly and learn the passages in preparation for regular testing and for studying the anthology texts in lessons.
- On A4 paper, complete the following lists of questions which are taken from the texts. Keep them safe for when you come to need them!!
- **Your answers will form the basis of a test in the first week back in September...**

Anthology Text 1: Matthew 1:18 to 2:25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

1. **1:18** - What happened in this family? What were the unusual things that happened?
2. **1:19** – What do you learn about Joseph? What did he want to do? Why did he want to do that? What do you think about what he wanted to do?
3. **1:20** – What happened? What should Joseph do? Why should he do that? What was unusual about that?
4. **1:21** – What did the messenger tell Joseph? Why should Joseph call the baby 'Jesus'? What does the name 'Jesus' mean?
5. **1:22** – Why did all those things happen? What do you think about that?

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6. **1:23** – The prophet had said that something would happen. What would happen? Look at the verses in the whole of chapter 1. Which verse(s) are about the virgin that would have a baby? Which verses are about ‘a son’? Which verses are about his name?

7. **1:24** – What happened?

8. **1:25** – What do you learn?

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: 6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

9. **2:1** – What do you learn about where Jesus was born? Who was the king? What do you learn about the wise men?

10. **2:2** – Who was the king that the wise men mention here? What was the question? Why did they ask that question?

11. **2:3** – What happened? What might be the reason why that happened?

12. **2:4** – What did Herod do? What might be the reason why he did that? What do you think about his question?

13. **2:5** – What was the answer from the chief priests and the other men?

14. **2:6** – What had God’s servant said about the Christ? What is the name of God’s people?

15. **2:7** – What did Herod do? What might be the reason why he kept it a secret? What was important about the time when the star appeared?

16. **2:8** – make a list of Herod’s instructions. Why should the wise men search in that way? What did Herod say they should tell him?

17. **2:9-10** – What did the wise men do? What happened to the star? What was their reaction to that?

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18. **2:11** – Make a list of the things that the wise men did. Whom did they see? What was their reaction to that?

19. **2:12** – What happened?

The Escape to Egypt

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

20. **2:13** – Make a list of the things that happened. What do you learn about Joseph? What should Joseph do? What do you learn about Herod?

21. **2:14** – What happened?

22. **2:15** – How long did Joseph and his family stay in Egypt? Why was that?

23. **2:16** – Make a list of the things you learn about Herod. What sort of person was he? What would happen to all the small boys in or near Bethlehem?

24. **2:17** – Whose words became true? What do you learn about this person?

25. **2:18** – What do you learn from Jeremiah’s poem? What does it tell you about the events in 2:16?

The Return to Nazareth

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

26. **2:19** – Make a list of those that Matthew mentions here. What happened?

27. **2:20** – What were the instructions? Who were the people that Matthew mentions in this verse?

28. **2:21** – What did Joseph do?

29. **2:22** – What happened? What do you learn about Archelaus? What might be the reason why Joseph was so afraid?

30. **2:23** – What happened? What do you learn about that?

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Task: Learning new vocabulary and phrases

Write the correct keyword alongside its definition. The keywords can be found at the bottom of page 2. You may need to use the web to help you.

	The second section of the Christian Bible, written originally in Greek and recording the life and teachings of Jesus and his earliest followers. It includes the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, twenty-one letters by St Paul and others and the book of Revelation.
	The record of Jesus' life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament. The four Gospels are attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. All give an account of the ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. Origin: Latin <i>evangelium</i> , 'good news' Greek <i>euangelion</i> 'good news'
	The word, 'synoptic' means 'with one eye'. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar wording.
	A Greek title by which Christians refer to Jesus, meaning 'the anointed one.'
	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. It is a Hebrew word, which means 'the anointed one'.
	One of the three monotheistic faiths alongside Christianity and Islam. The religion that Jesus was born into and followed.
	A religious group very influential in Jewish society at the time of Jesus. They were considered the teachers of the Laws of Moses.
	A religious group which consisted mainly of the more important priests in the Temple in Jerusalem. They were extremely conservative in every area of life.
	A group of people (similar to a guerrilla movement) who became most involved in the direct action against the Roman Empire. They believed that they could have no master but God and that the Romans must be driven out of Palestine at all costs.

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	A sect of Judaism mostly associated with the Qumran community and with the Dead Sea Scrolls.
	The dispersal of the Jews beyond Palestine, which took place in around 70 CE. The dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland.
	A vast geographical area, covering most of western Europe and Palestine which the Romans controlled and had power over.
	A geographical area on the east coast of the Mediterranean sea. Hugely influential area in terms of ports / agriculture / access to land to the east. At the time of the New Testament, it was under Roman occupation.
	A culture, originally begun in Greece and under Alexander the Great it grew and became a far reaching civilization in which people shared common ideas. In Alexander's time, this was shown in Greek customs; religion, philosophy and language were adopted by many people.
	This philosophical thinking was based on the belief that there are two worlds; the world of the spirit, where God is, which is pure and holy and the world of matter, where we are, which is evil and corrupted. These people believed that people had a divine 'spark' embedded in their nature – the soul.
	An influential branch of philosophy. Formed by Zeno and based on the idea that both the world and its people ultimately depend on just one principle: Reason. That people should live in harmony with each other and use their conscience.
	A philosophical group which traced its origins to Epicurus. They adopted a different way of life and for them a good life consisted of 'pleasure'. This means things like friendship and peace of mind.

Keywords: Write the correct keyword in the box next to the meaning...

Hellenism	Judaism	Roman Empire	The Essenes	New Testament
Diaspora	Gospel(s)	The Synoptic Gospels	'Christ'	'Messiah'
The Epicureans	Palestine (in terms of 1 st Century AD / CE)		The Pharisees	The Sadducees
The Zealots	Gnosticism (the Gnostics – 'silent G')		Stoicism (the Stoics)	

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RS A Level: PHILOSOPHY

Task 1: Learning new vocabulary and phrases

Write the correct keyword alongside its definition. The keywords can be found underneath the table. You may need to use the internet to help you.

	Proceeding from particular instances/ facts to a general conclusion. The premises supply strong evidence for a probable conclusion.
	Simple patterns of behaviour of objects, such as their behaviour in accordance with the laws of nature – for example, Newton’s laws.”
	Latin for ‘what comes after’. Refers to knowledge and truth claims based upon/derived from experience.
	Involving inferences from general principles. The process of reasoning from one or more statements to reach a logical conclusion.
	A proposition (statement which is true or false) supporting or helping to support a conclusion.
	Evidence that something is the case.
	Latin expression ‘from what comes earlier’. Refers to that which is ‘without/prior to experience’. Arguments based on definitions.
	A necessary being is a living, self-aware thing that must necessarily exist for all other things to exist/the author of the universe and the initial cause of all things material.
	Degree of confidence that a particular occurrence will take place.
	The part of a sentence or clause containing a verb and stating something about the subject i.e. God (subject) exists (predicate).
	Term meaning ‘similarity’ or ‘likeness’, used to make a comparison between two qualities e.g. how one human, one divine are similar.
	Latin meaning ‘from oneself’. Refers to the ability to have within oneself the grounds for one’s own existence/not dependent.
	A sequence of reasoning or justification which can never come to an end.
	Term used to describe a fact or event which depends (is contingent) upon another fact or event happening first.
	The belief in God as a perfect, personal being.

A Priori	Proof	Infinite regress	Regularity/ regularities of succession
Premise	Analogy	Deism	Deductive
Aseity	Necessary existence	Probability	Contingent
Inductive	Predicate	A Posteriori	

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Task 2: Research the following scholars.

Print off and complete the table below:

	St Thomas Aquinas	William Paley	Frederick Tennant	David Hume	William Lane Craig	Frederick Copleston
<i>When were they alive? (i.e. dates)</i>						
<i>Where were they born/live their life?</i>						
<i>How did they communicate their ideas? (i.e. books they wrote)</i>						
<i>Why were they inspired to develop their theory? (i.e. social context in which they lived/people they were inspired by/ideas they were inspired by etc.)</i>						
<i>What were their key ideas?</i>						

Task 3: Researching a philosophical argument

Watch the following YouTube links and then answer the questions below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?edufilter=NULL&v=yiNbJlqcJo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?edufilter=NULL&v=WLKwlmYuEKU>

Q1. Outline the cosmological argument for the existence of God.

Q2. Why would some people not accept this as a valid proof of God's existence?