*AS Philosophy – Philosophy of Religion*

Personal Learning Checklist

**Student Name:**

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| **Subject Name:****AQA Philosophy** | **Unit Name:****Philosophy of Religion** |
| *Minimum Target Grade:* | *Aspirational Target Grade:* |

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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **THEME 1 – THE CONCEPT OF GOD** |
| **Key Concepts:**OmniscientOmnipotentSupremely goodTimeless (eternal)Within time (everlasting |  |  |  |  |
| **1.1 God as omniscient, omnipotent, supremely good, and either timeless (eternal) or within time (everlasting) and the meaning(s) of these divine attributes.** |  |  |  |  |
| Issues with claiming that God has these attributes, either singly or in combination, including:* The paradox of the stone
* The Euthyphro dilemma
* The compatibility, or otherwise, of the existence of an omniscient God and free human beings.
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **THEME 2 – ARGUMENTS RELATING TO THE EXISTENCE OF GOD** |
| **Key Concepts:**Ontological argumentsCosmological argumentsDesign argumentsProblem of Evil |  |  |  |  |
| **2.1 Ontological arguments, including those formulated by:**1. Anselm
2. Argument in *Proslogion* 2
3. Argument in *Proslogion* 3
4. Descartes
5. Argument in *Meditations* V
6. Leibniz
7. Extension of Descartes’ argument
8. Malcolm
9. Update of Anselm’s ontological argument from Proslogion 3
10. Plantinga.
11. Using possible worlds in an ontological argument – in *God, Freedom and Evil*
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| * Issues with the Ontological Argument, including those raised by:
1. Gaunilo

‘On Behalf of the Fool’ – the Perfect Island objection.1. Hume

*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* – Reason alone cannot demonstrate the existence of things1. Kant

*Critique of Pure Reason* – God’s existence can be denied without contradiction. And existence is not a predicate. |  |  |  |  |
| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **2.2 The arguments from design: arguments from purpose and regularity, including those formulated by:**1. Paley
2. *Natural Theology*’*s* Argument from analogy
3. Swinburne.
4. *The Existence of God’s* Argument from regularities of succession
* Issues with the Argument from Design, including those raised by:
1. Paley (himself)

Paley’s anticipations of problems with the analogy1. Hume

*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*:* + Weakness of the analogy
	+ Argument from Effect to Cause
	+ Alternative explanations for apparent design
	+ A perfect God cannot be inferred from an imperfect creation
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **2.3 The cosmological arguments: causal and contingency arguments, including those formulated by:**1. Aquinas’ Five Ways (first three)
2. *Summa Theologicae*’*s*
	1. Argument from motion
	2. Argument from efficient causes
	3. Argument from contingency and necessity
3. Descartes
4. *Meditations* 3 – Descartes’ Causal Principle.
5. The Kalam argument.
6. Al-Ghazali’s argument that everything has a cause so the universe has a cause
* Issues, including those raised by:
1. Hume

*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion and an Enquiry Concerning Human understanding* * The link between cause and effect can be questioned.
* The universe does not need an explanation.
* The argument contradicts itself.
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| 1. Russell.

*1948 Radio Debate with Copleston** Only propositions can be necessary
* Fallacy of composition
* There might be some events that do not need a cause
* The universe is a brute fact
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| **The problem of evil: how to reconcile God’s omnipotence, omniscience and supreme goodness with the existence of physical/moral evil.**1. The logical problem of evil from J.R Mackie’s *Miracle of Theism*
2. The evidential problem of evil from William Rowe

Responses to the Problem of Evil and responses arising from those responses, including:1. The Free Will Defence (Plantinga’s *God, Freedom and Evil*)
2. Soul-making (Hick’s *Evil and the God of Love*)
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **THEME 3 – RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE** |
| **Key Concepts:**Logical positivismVerificationFalsificationBliksEschatological verification |  |  |  |  |
| **3.1 Logical positivism: verification principle and verification/falsification (Ayer) – cognitivist accounts of religious language**1. Logical Positivism and Verificationism from the Vienna Circle and A.J.Ayer’s *Language, Truth and Logic*
* Issues with Logical Positivism and Verificationism
1. Religious statements are verifiable eschatologically (Hick)
2. Flew’s Falsification Principle and the University Debate:
	1. Flew on Wisdom’s Gods – religious statements are not falsifiable
	2. Hare’ s Bliks – Non-cognitivism: religious statements express viewpoints about the world
	3. Mitchell’s Parable of the Partisan
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| **Knowledge/Specification**  | **Not Yet** | **Not Sure** | **Yes** | **To address this before the exam I will:-** |
| **3.2 Non-cognitivist accounts of religious language**1. Wittgenstein (*Philosophical Investigations) –* Religious language as a form of life in a language game.
2. Braithwaite’s view that religious statements express commitments
3. Crombie’s view that religious language is not meaningless (against the critics)
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| **REVISION****Use the information on this checklist to make revision cards and notes** |

**Grade tracking:**

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*Note: You should discuss this checklist regularly with your subject teacher/mentor*