



JOURNEY DIAGRAM - RE - SIXTH FORM

Year
12

Autumn 1

Autumn 2

Spring 1

Spring 2

Summer 1

Summer 2

Arguments for the existence of God:

- The Design Argument
- The Ontological Argument
- The Cosmological Argument



Evil and Suffering:

- Evil and suffering from a Biblical perspective
- Natural and Moral Evil
- Hick's theodicy
- Free Will Defense
- Griffin's Process Theology
- How do Theodicies influence the lives/beliefs of Christians

Religious experience:

The nature of religious experience.

- Visions: corporeal, imaginative and intellectual.
- Numinous experiences: Otto, an apprehension of the wholly other.
- Mystical experiences: William James; non sensuous and non-intellectual union with the divine as presented by Walter Stace.
- Verifying religious experiences
- The challenges of verifying religious experiences.
- The challenges to religious experience from science.
- Religious responses to those challenges.
- Swinburne's principles of credulity and testimony.
- The influence of religious experiences and their value for religious faith.

Religious language:

- The issue of whether religious language should be viewed cognitively or non-cognitively.
- The challenges of the verification and falsification principles to the meaningfulness of religious language.
- Responses to these challenges:
- eschatological verification with reference to Hick
- language as an expression of a Blik with reference to R.M.Hare
- religious language as a language game with reference to Wittgenstein.
- Other views of the nature of religious language:
- religious language as symbolic with reference to Tillich
- religious language as analogical with reference to Aquinas
- the Via Negativa.
- The strengths and weaknesses of the differing understandings of religious language.

Normative ethical theories:

- Deontological: natural moral law and the principle of double effect with reference to Aquinas; proportionalism.
- Teleological: situation ethics with reference to Fletcher.
- Character based: virtue ethics with reference to Aristotle.
- The differing approaches taken to moral decision making by these ethical theories.
- Their application to the issues of theft and lying.
- The strengths and weaknesses of these ways of making moral decisions.

The application of natural moral law, situation ethics and virtue ethics to:

Issues of human life and death:

- embryo research; cloning; 'designer' babies
- abortion
- voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide
- capital punishment.
- Issues of non-human life and death:
- use of animals as food; intensive farming
- use of animals in scientific procedures; cloning
- blood sports
- animals as a source of organs for transplants.

Free will and moral responsibility:

- The conditions of moral responsibility: free will; understanding the difference between right and wrong.
- The extent of moral responsibility: libertarianism, hard determinism, compatibilism.
- The relevance of moral responsibility to reward and punishment.

Conscience:

- Differing ideas, religious and non-religious, about the nature of conscience.
- The role of conscience in making moral decisions with reference to:
- telling lies and breaking promises
- adultery.
- The value of conscience as a moral guide.

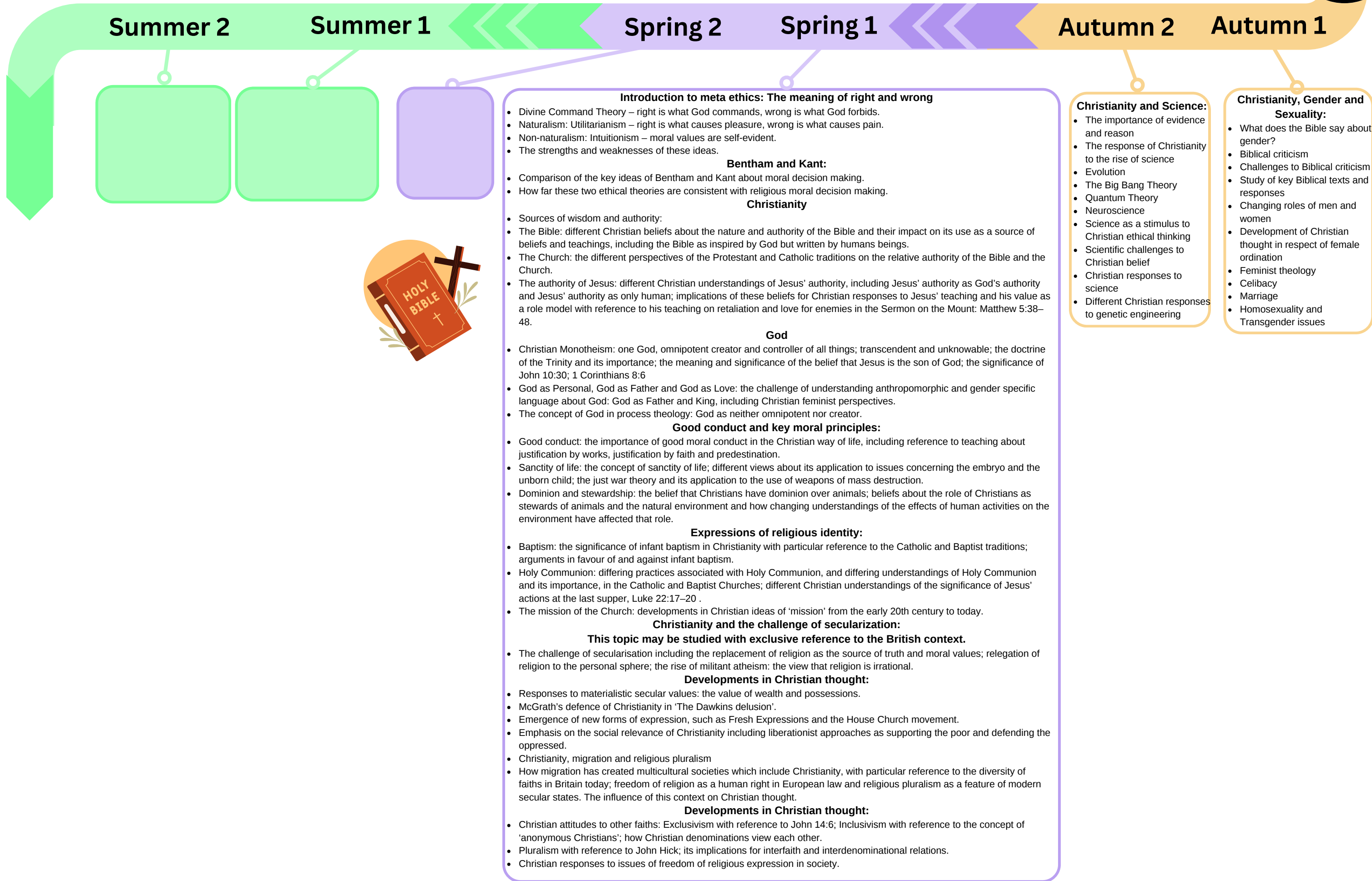


Miracles:

- Differing understandings of 'miracle'
- realist and anti - realist views
- violation of natural law or natural event.
- Comparison of the key ideas of David Hume and Maurice Wiles on miracles.
- The significance of these views for religion.

Self, death and the afterlife:

- The nature and existence of the soul; Descartes' argument for the existence of the soul.
- The body/soul relationship.
- The possibility of continuing personal existence after death.
- Self, death and afterlife - Dialogues
- The meaning and purpose of life: the following purposes and their relative importance: to glorify God and have a personal relationship with him; to prepare for judgement; to bring about God's kingdom on earth.
- Resurrection: the concept of soul; resurrection of the flesh as expressed in the writings of Augustine; spiritual resurrection; the significance of 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 and 50-54.
- Different interpretations of judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory as physical, spiritual or psychological realities; objective immortality in process thought.



Summer 2

Summer 1

Spring 2

Spring 1

Autumn 2

Autumn 1

Introduction to meta ethics: The meaning of right and wrong

- Divine Command Theory – right is what God commands, wrong is what God forbids.
- Naturalism: Utilitarianism – right is what causes pleasure, wrong is what causes pain.
- Non-naturalism: Intuitionism – moral values are self-evident.
- The strengths and weaknesses of these ideas.

Bentham and Kant:

- Comparison of the key ideas of Bentham and Kant about moral decision making.
- How far these two ethical theories are consistent with religious moral decision making.

Christianity

- Sources of wisdom and authority:
- The Bible: different Christian beliefs about the nature and authority of the Bible and their impact on its use as a source of beliefs and teachings, including the Bible as inspired by God but written by humans beings.
- The Church: the different perspectives of the Protestant and Catholic traditions on the relative authority of the Bible and the Church.
- The authority of Jesus: different Christian understandings of Jesus' authority, including Jesus' authority as God's authority and Jesus' authority as only human; implications of these beliefs for Christian responses to Jesus' teaching and his value as a role model with reference to his teaching on retaliation and love for enemies in the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:38–48.

God

- Christian Monotheism: one God, omnipotent creator and controller of all things; transcendent and unknowable; the doctrine of the Trinity and its importance; the meaning and significance of the belief that Jesus is the son of God; the significance of John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6
- God as Personal, God as Father and God as Love: the challenge of understanding anthropomorphic and gender specific language about God: God as Father and King, including Christian feminist perspectives.
- The concept of God in process theology: God as neither omnipotent nor creator.

Good conduct and key moral principles:

- Good conduct: the importance of good moral conduct in the Christian way of life, including reference to teaching about justification by works, justification by faith and predestination.
- Sanctity of life: the concept of sanctity of life; different views about its application to issues concerning the embryo and the unborn child; the just war theory and its application to the use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Dominion and stewardship: the belief that Christians have dominion over animals; beliefs about the role of Christians as stewards of animals and the natural environment and how changing understandings of the effects of human activities on the environment have affected that role.

Expressions of religious identity:

- Baptism: the significance of infant baptism in Christianity with particular reference to the Catholic and Baptist traditions; arguments in favour of and against infant baptism.
- Holy Communion: differing practices associated with Holy Communion, and differing understandings of Holy Communion and its importance, in the Catholic and Baptist Churches; different Christian understandings of the significance of Jesus' actions at the last supper, Luke 22:17–20 .
- The mission of the Church: developments in Christian ideas of 'mission' from the early 20th century to today.

Christianity and the challenge of secularization:

This topic may be studied with exclusive reference to the British context.

- The challenge of secularisation including the replacement of religion as the source of truth and moral values; relegation of religion to the personal sphere; the rise of militant atheism: the view that religion is irrational.

Developments in Christian thought:

- Responses to materialistic secular values: the value of wealth and possessions.
- McGrath's defence of Christianity in 'The Dawkins delusion'.
- Emergence of new forms of expression, such as Fresh Expressions and the House Church movement.
- Emphasis on the social relevance of Christianity including liberationist approaches as supporting the poor and defending the oppressed.
- Christianity, migration and religious pluralism
- How migration has created multicultural societies which include Christianity, with particular reference to the diversity of faiths in Britain today; freedom of religion as a human right in European law and religious pluralism as a feature of modern secular states. The influence of this context on Christian thought.

Developments in Christian thought:

- Christian attitudes to other faiths: Exclusivism with reference to John 14:6; Inclusivism with reference to the concept of 'anonymous Christians'; how Christian denominations view each other.
- Pluralism with reference to John Hick; its implications for interfaith and interdenominational relations.
- Christian responses to issues of freedom of religious expression in society.

Christianity and Science:

- The importance of evidence and reason
- The response of Christianity to the rise of science
- Evolution
- The Big Bang Theory
- Quantum Theory
- Neuroscience
- Science as a stimulus to Christian ethical thinking
- Scientific challenges to Christian belief
- Christian responses to science
- Different Christian responses to genetic engineering

Christianity, Gender and Sexuality:

- What does the Bible say about gender?
- Biblical criticism
- Challenges to Biblical criticism
- Study of key Biblical texts and responses
- Changing roles of men and women
- Development of Christian thought in respect of female ordination
- Feminist theology
- Celibacy
- Marriage
- Homosexuality and Transgender issues

