

Virtual Revision Conferences 2006 *'In-house'*

Why travel?
It's 'in-house'

RS- AS and A2

- hold in your school or college
- no need to travel for a revision conference

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New courses added all the time



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by fax or by phone to 01692 582565

RS (AS level) Virtual Revision Conference (VR7)

with **Dr. Mel Thompson**

This programme covers key topics for RS Philosophy and Ethics at AS level, setting out the arguments in a clear and systematic way, and providing a basic framework upon which candidates can build a sound understanding of the subject.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: The Ontological Argument

The Ontological Argument not only contributes to an understanding of what people mean by 'God', but also serves as a valuable tool for helping students to develop their own ability to examine and criticise a logical argument.

Session 2: Miracles

Key to so many issues in the Philosophy of Religion, 'miracles' is a topic that clarifies thinking on the nature of evidence, on religious experience and on the nature and verification of religious claims.

Session 3: The Argument from Design

Probably the most popular and challenging of arguments concerning the existence of God, it introduces issues concerning religion and science, and questions religious claims about the nature of the universe.

Session 4: The Problem of Evil

The traditional problem of evil challenges students to think clearly about religion and its claims, and is a key component in developing the skills that lead to success in this subject.

Session 5: Utilitarianism

This most widely used of all ethical theories is fundamental to an appreciation of many moral arguments. Students need to be aware of the different forms of utilitarianism, its limitations and its contribution to modern ethical debate.

Session 6: Kant's Ethical Theory

In contrast to utilitarianism, Kant's analysis of the categorical imperative sets out a basis for right and wrong that he believes can be applied universally. Appreciating the intellectual clarity of this argument is a great asset for students.

**Book - no obligation-
by January 31-
10% discount**



Dr. Mel Thompson

Formerly a teacher, lecturer, editor and examiner for A level Religious Studies, Mel Thompson now works as a freelance writer, specialising in Philosophy and Ethics. His books are widely used in schools for candidates at both AS and A2 level.

The Course

For success at AS level, students need a clear grasp of the basic arguments, but also a sense of the overall value and importance of the topics under consideration. These lectures offer a balance between straight exposition and contextual background. Ethical issues in particular require a balance between intuitive engagement and rational analysis.

Book Online- fax 01692 582770 or tel 01692 582565

RS (A2)

Virtual Revision Conference (VR8)

with **Dr Mel Thompson**

In the final couple of months before A2 level examinations, students need to clarify the basic arguments they have been studying, and also develop an overview of the various issues, so that they can think in a broad and imaginative way, displaying in the examination a sound grasp of the subject as a whole.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Body and Soul / Life after death

An historical overview of the mind/body relationship and its implications for religion and ethics, leads into an examination of issues relating to life after death.

Session 2: Religious Experience / the critics of religion

An overview of religious experience leads to an examination of how experience and reason are related, and to an assessment of the criticisms of religion from Marx and Freud. This lecture covers a range of interlocking topics.

Session 3: Religious Language

An appreciation of the nature of religious language, its scope and its limitations, is key to a sensitive and intellectually defensible discussion of religious issues. This lecture looks at key features of religious language, and their implications.

Session 4: Conscience

What is conscience, how does it operate, and how does it relate to moral and religious arguments? This lecture relates the idea of conscience to other important topics for Religious Studies.

Session 5: Freedom and Determinism / free-will issues

This lecture starts with a general overview of the freedom/determinism debate in philosophy, relating it to both science and religion. It then examines Ethical issues connected with free will.

Session 6: Relativism / Natural Law

Relativism is an important factor in much modern Ethical debate. This lecture looks at its implications and then contrasts them with those of a very different ethical theory: Natural Law.

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