

Subject	Religious Studies: Ethics Component
Context	The following tasks will help you to gain an overview of the first Theme that you will study in A Level Ethics. The aim is to begin to develop your understanding of the key philosophers, vocabulary and concepts that you will encounter when you start the A Level course.
Securing	<p>Learn the names and details of the people below. You may wish to create flash cards with the names of the people on one side, and the details on the reverse. Test yourself on these details so that you are ready for a quiz in our first lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socrates</li> <li>• Plato</li> <li>• Aristotle</li> <li>• Thomas Aquinas</li> <li>• Robert Adams</li> <li>• Max Stirner</li> </ul>
Processing	<p>1. Use the following websites to help you to produce an overview of each of these theories, please write a short summary of the key ideas/vocabulary for each theory using the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divine Command theory – <a href="https://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/summary-divine-command-theory-ethics/">https://peped.org/philosophicalinvestigations/summary-divine-command-theory-ethics/</a></li> <li>• Virtue theory - <a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/virtue-ethics-revision-notes.pdf">7 virtue ethics revision notes.pdf (wjec.co.uk)</a></li> </ul>
Exploring	<p>Listen to the following podcast:  <a href="https://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/episode70-p1">https://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2/episode70-p1</a></p> <p>2. Summarise the Euthyphro Dilemma put forward by Socrates.  3. How does this dilemma challenge Divine Command Theory?  4. How convincing do you find this challenge? Can you think of any responses that could be made to deal with this challenge?</p>
Reviewing	<p>1. Based on the work that you have completed, write down 5 questions that you would like to ask your teacher about the Divine Command Theory in your first lesson.  2. Please learn the key words and definitions <b>below</b> for a quick vocab test during your first Ethics lesson in September</p>

**Key words and definitions to learn:**

<b>Key word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Euthyphro's dilemma</b>	Whether God commands things because they are good in themselves, or are things good because God commands and approves them?
<b>Objective truth</b>	Reality as it is, apart from what we think or feel about it.
<b>Omnipotence</b>	the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
<b>Omnibenevolence</b>	God is all loving
<b>Meta-ethics</b>	attempts to assign meanings to the abstract language of moral philosophy
<b>Metaphysics</b>	a branch of philosophy that investigates the ultimate nature of reality
<b>Religious pluralism</b>	Accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist, a potential problem for DCT - which religion and which commands?
<b>Divine Command Theory</b>	a theory asserting that the morally right action is the one that God commands
<b>Modified Divine Command Theory</b>	Philosopher Robert Adams' attempt to modify the Divine Command Theory to address the challenges of the Euthyphro Dilemma.
<b>Normative Ethics</b>	The study of the principles, rules, or theories that guide our actions and judgments
<b>Absolutist</b>	An ethical system that believes there exists a standard of right and wrong that applies to all human beings.
<b>Relativist</b>	Evaluates ethicalness subjectively on the basis of individual and group experiences
<b>Deontological Ethics</b>	The idea that actions are right and wrong in themselves independently of any consequences
<b>Teleological Ethics</b>	moral goodness is determined by the end or result
<b>Consequentialism</b>	an ethical system that determines the level of goodness or evil from the effect or result of an act