

# Year 11 to Year 12 Induction Tasks

## Preparing for A Level Religious Studies Christianity

Welcome to A Level Religious Studies! Over the summer, your task is to begin preparing for the exciting and challenging journey ahead by developing your understanding of Christianity as studied at A Level. The following tasks will help you build strong foundations for the course. Please complete all tasks by the first lesson in September.

### Task 1: Theologian vs Philosopher

**Aim:** Develop confidence using core academic language.

**Instructions:**

1. Define the difference between:
  - a. A **theologian**: someone who studies and reflects on the nature of God and religious beliefs from within the faith tradition.
  - b. A **philosopher**: someone who examines fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, and ethics, often from a secular perspective.
2. Write a short paragraph (150–200 words) explaining:
  - a. Why theology and philosophy both matter in the study of Christianity.
  - b. How theologians approach Christian beliefs differently than philosophers.

### Task 2: Key Thinkers Fact File

**Aim:** Learn about major contributors to Christian theology.

**Instructions:**

Create a **Fact File Booklet** (digital or handwritten) with **1 page per thinker**. For each of the following, include:

- **Name & Dates**

- **Key ideas or contributions**
- **Relevance to Christianity**

*Key Thinkers:*

- **St Paul** – What was his role in the early church?
- **St Augustine**
- **Rudolf Bultmann**
- **Nicholas T. Wright (N.T. Wright)**
- **Jurgen Moltmann**
- **Sallie McFague**
- **Karl Barth**
- **Martin Luther**

Try to include a **picture, quote, or fun fact** where possible to make them memorable!

### **Task 3: Structure of the Bible & Its Development**

**Aim:** Understand how the Bible is structured and how the Old Testament influences the New Testament.

**Instructions:**

Answer the following in your own words (around 1–2 pages total):

1. What are the **main sections** of the Bible?
  - a. How is the **Old Testament** different from the **New Testament** in terms of content, time period, and purpose?
2. What are some key ways the Old Testament influences the New Testament?
  - a. Look at examples such as the fulfilment of prophecy, covenant, and law.
3. Who was **St Paul**, and why is he so important for understanding the New Testament and Christian theology?
  - a. Include his conversion, missionary journeys, and key theological contributions.
4. Who were the four gospel writers? What are their backgrounds and key differences?

You may wish to use resources like BibleProject.com or Britannica for reliable summaries.

## Task 4: The Historical Jesus

**Aim:** Explore how modern historians and theologians understand the life of Jesus.

### **Instructions:**

1. Listen to the following **podcasts**:
  - a. *The Rest is History: Jesus Christ* (episodes 1–4)
  - b. *Dan Snow’s History Hit: Who Was Jesus the Man?*
2. Make notes on:
  - a. What modern historians believe about the historical Jesus.
  - b. Key differences between historical and theological views of Jesus.
  - c. The challenges of using ancient texts to reconstruct history.
3. **Optional extension:** Write a 300-word reflection: “*Who was Jesus – historical figure, Son of God, or both?*”

**Other excellent resources** to explore:

- **BibleProject YouTube Channel** – Animated explainer videos.
- **Bart Ehrman Podcasts** – Scholarly yet accessible.
- <https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/eduqas-wjec-religious-studies/christianity/>
- <https://www.religion-online.org/>

## Checklist

<b>Task</b>	<b>Completed ?</b>
Key Vocabulary and Theology vs Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fact File on Key Thinkers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure of the Bible & St Paul	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical Jesus Podcast Research	<input type="checkbox"/>

 **Deadline: First RS Lesson in September**

Bring all your notes, fact files, and written pieces ready to discuss. If you have any questions, contact Mrs Shelley before the end of term.