

Religious Studies: Introduction Task



The A Level Religious Studies course will require you to write extended essay answers under timed conditions. This means that it's essential that your critical and evaluative skills are developed.

The aims of this summer task are to introduce you to the style of questions you will be answering and to give you an insight into one of the topics you will explore - abortion.

Your task is to carry out some research in order to create a detailed essay plan to answer the question below:

'Unborn babies cannot be murdered.' Consider how far this is true. (15 marks)



You will need to research Christian, Buddhist and secular views to help you come up with your arguments for and against the statement. It would be a good idea to start by finding a definition of 'murder' and then considering different views about when life begins.

Your essay plan should use bullet points and follow the structure below. It must not be longer than one A4 page.

Introduction

- Give a definition of murder.
- One sentence to show an awareness of the different points of view/an argument for and against.
- State your argument – what will your essay argue, that unborn babies can or cannot be murdered? This must match your conclusion.

Argument (either arguments for or against depending on what you have stated in the introduction)

- List 3 arguments with evidence for each one (e.g. religious teachings, laws, quotes etc.) to show how it could be developed.
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Counter-Argument

- List 2 arguments showing that you are aware of a different point of view. Again each one will need evidence to show how it could be developed (e.g. religious teachings, laws, quotes etc.)
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Conclusion

- Emphasise your main argument showing why it's stronger than the counter-arguments.
- Your essay could end with a quote to illustrate the strength of your argument.