_A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Red	Amber	Green

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2A Problem of Evil

1. I can explain the difference between moral evil and natural evil and give examples			
2. I can quote and explain Epicurus' challenge to belief in God as a Logical problem			
3. I can explain JL Mackie's version of the logical problem - The Inconsistent Triad, and the problem with removing any of the options.			
4. I can explain 'The paradox of omnipotence' and Whitehead's Process Theology - God began the process of evolution but can't control it.			
5. I can explain the view that God uses suffering to serve a greater purpose (Aquinas) and W Rowe & G Paul's counter arguments.			
6. I can discuss to what extent classical / modern forms of the problem of evil prove the non-existence of God			

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2B Augustinian Theodicy

1. I can explain Augustine's view of evil as a consequence of sin (Genesis 3 literalistic view)			
2. I can explain 'evil as privation' or absence of God's created order e.g. light/dark metaphor			
3. I can explain the idea that humanity was 'seminally present' in Adam and Adam as 'representative' of humanity			
4. I can explain the view of the cross as 'soul-deciding' and the importance of repentance			
5. I can explain how the cross and death of Jesus preserves both God's love and justice simultaneously			
6. I can explain the challenge to Augustine based on scientific error, evolutionary theory and moral contradiction?			

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2C Irenaean Theodicy

1. I can explain the Irenaean theodicy: from 'image' to 'likeness' = from imperfection to perfection			
2. I can explain evil as a necessary to train the soul = the vale of soul-making and second order goods			
3. I can explain John Hick's eschatological justification for evil and the next life and 'the principle of Epistemic Distance'			
4. I can explain the challenge to the Irenaean theodicy based on the injustice of universal salvation and God using evil as a tool for good			
5. I can explain the problem of the immensity of suffering & inequal distribution of evil/suffering			

6. I can evaluate to what extent the theodicies succeed as a defence of the God of classical theism AND their relevance to 21St Century			

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2D Sigmund Freud

1. I can explain S Freud's view of religious belief as a product of the human mind			
2. I can explain: illusion, collective neurosis, primal horde, Oedipus complex, wish fulfilment and reaction against helplessness.			
3. I can use supporting evidence for Freud: redirection of guilt complexes and instinctive desires (sexual aggressive)derived from evolution			
4. I can explain challenges to Freud: lack of evidence for primal horde, no firm psychological evidence for universal Oedipus complex, evidence basis too narrow.			
5. I can discuss how far religious belief can be considered a neurosis or obsessional practice			
6. I can evaluate the adequacy of Freud's explanation of religious belief			

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2E Carl Jung

1. I can explain C Jung's view of religious belief as a product of the human mind			
2. I can explain: religion as necessary for personal growth (collective unconsciousness, individuation, archetypes, the God within)			
3. I can use supporting evidence: religion as a source of comfort and promotion of positive personal and societal mindsets			
4. I can explain challenges: lack of empirical evidence for archetypes, his view of religious belief is reductionist, is individuation a religious experience?			
5. I can discuss the extent to which Jung was more positive than Freud about the idea of God			
6. I can evaluate to what extent there is a relationship between religion and mental health.			

2.2 Challenges to Religious Belief: 2.2F Atheism

2. I can explain reasons for rejecting belief in deities: non-thinking, infantile worldview, impedes scientific progress.			
1. I can explain the difference between agnosticism and atheism			
3. I can explain the rise of New Atheism (antitheism)			
4. I can explain challenges to atheism: science & religion, responses to fundamentalist groups regarding morality and community, religious apologetics in the media			
5. I can discuss the success atheistic arguments against religious belief			
6. I can evaluate the extent to which religious responses to New Atheism have been successful			

Date:

Student Reflection:
Teacher Comment: