Timeline	Synoptic Links

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Synoptic Links

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Heraclitus (b. c.535 – d. c.475 BC)
Modules: Ancient Greek Influences

Parmenides (fl. 475 BC)
Modules: Ancient Greek Influences

Socrates (b. c.470 – d. 399 BC)
Modules: Ancient Greek Influences

Plato (b. 428/427 or 424/423 – d. 348/347 BC)
Modules: Ancient Greek Influences, Mind, Body, Soul

Aristotle (b. 384 - d. 322 BC)
Modules: Ancient Greek Influences, Mind, Body, Soul

Philo (b. c.20 BC – d. AD 50)
Modules: Religious Language

Jesus Christ (b c. 4 BC – AD 30/33)
Modules: Jesus Christ, Christian Moral Principles

Plotinus (b. 204/5 - d. 270)
Modules: Religious Language

THE PATRISTIC AGE (c. 100-c.700)

Irenaeus (b. c.130 - d. c.202)
Modules: Problem of Evil, Death and Afterlife

Boethius (b. c.477 - d. 524)
Modules: Attributes of God

Synoptic links: Ancient Greek Influences
Mind, Body, Soul/Afterlife - Plato's Arguments from opposites, if our world is impermanent, there must be a permanent world of forms
Cosmological Argument - Aristotle's view of the Prime Mover and its influence on Aquinas' Five Ways
Attributes of God - Aristotle's conception of transcendent PM who is outside space and time, and its influence on traditional Christian conception of God

Synoptic links: Mind, Body, Soul
Afterlife - the existence of the soul and its implication on life after death
Ancient Greek Influences - Plato's Arguments from opposites, if our world is impermanent, there must be a permanent world of forms

Synoptic Links with Jesus Christ
Liberation Theology - the role of Jesus as liberator may support Liberation Theology
Gender & Society - the view of Jesus as a Servant King rather than a Davidic Messiah may support Ruether's project to reform Christianity
Christian Moral Principles - the role of Jesus as teacher and the extent it contradicts teachings in the Old Testament, and problem this may pose for 'bible-believing' Christians
Situation Ethics - Jesus' teaching on agape love and whether it should be privileged over his other teachings
Religious Experience - the miracles performed by Jesus Christ are examples of religious experience

Synoptic links with Theodicy
Teleological Argument –lack of design in the universe points to the non-existence of God
Attributes of God - The Problem of Evil raises questions about God's omnipotence and benevolence – you can bring in Mackie's Inconsistent Triad

Synoptic Links with Attributes of God
Theodicy – The Problem of Evil raises questions about God's omnipotence and benevolence – you can bring in Mackie's Inconsistent Triad.
Religious Language – consider the limitations of using language and the danger

Pseudo-Dionysios (fl. ca. 500)
Modules: Religious Language

Pelagius (b. 354- d. 418)
Modules: Human Nature

Augustine (b. 354 - d. 430)
Modules: Problem of Evil, Human Nature, Conscience, Sexual Ethics, Death and Afterlife, Attributes of God

THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE (c. 700- c. 1500)

Anselm of Canterbury (b. 1033 - d. 1109)
Modules: Ontological Argument, Attributes of God

Maimonides (b. 1135 - d. 1204)
Modules: Religious Language

Albert the Great (b. c. 1193- d. 1280)
Modules: Conscience

Thomas Aquinas (b. 1225 - d. 1274)
Modules: Cosmological Argument, Teleological Argument, Conscience, Natural Law Theory, Knowledge of God, Sexual Ethics, Death and Afterlife, Attributes of God

of anthropomorphising God. 'Superlatives are diminutives when applied to God'. We reduce him to a superman like figure.
Ontological Argument – the question about how we define God.
Ancient Greek Influences – contrast Christian conception of God with Plato and Aristotle's.
Jesus Christ – kenosis and God's omnipotence

Synoptic Links: Augustine on Human Nature
Ancient Greek Influences – see Plato's influence on Augustine, including important ways they depart
Knowledge of God - implications of original sin on human capacity to know about God through reasoning
Afterlife - implication of Augustine's teaching on grace and its implication on who will be saved
Theodicy - Augustine's teaching on evil as a privation
Kant - Kant's view that humans can overcome their animal instincts and use reasoning to work out right and wrong
Secularism - the views of Freud and Dawkins could be used to criticise Augustine
Gender & Society - Augustine's teaching on the role of men and women

Synoptic Links: Natural Law Theory
Conscience - explain the link between NLT and Aquinas' view of conscience: the role of synderesis and ratio, distinguishing between infallible principles and their application
Situation Ethics - contrast NLT with Situation Ethics as two distinctly Christian but different ethical approaches
Metaethics - Draw a link between naturalism (a metaethical theory) and natural law and utilitarianism (normative ethical theories) - is goodness an observable feature of natural world?
Knowledge of God - Aquinas argues that we can use reasoning (ratio) to learn about God/what is right
Sexual Ethics - the primary precept of reproduction, and its application to issues of sexual ethics
Ancient Greek Influences - Aristotle's teleological approach and his influence on Aquinas
Christian Moral Principles - Natural Law Theory as the basis of Catholic moral teaching

THE REFORMATION AND POST-REFORMATION (c. 1500 – c. 1750)

Martin Luther (b. 1483 - d. 1546)
Modules: Knowledge of God, Death and Afterlife

John Calvin (b. 1509 - d. 1564)
Modules: Knowledge of God, Death and Afterlife

Rene Descartes (b. 1596 - d. 1650)
Modules: Mind, Body, Soul, Attributes of God

David Hume (b. 1711 - d. 1776)
Modules: Cosmological Argument, Death and Afterlife, Jesus Christ, Religious Experience, Religious Language

Immanuel Kant (b. 1724 - d. 1804)
Modules: Kantian Ethics

William Paley (b. 1743 - d. 1805)
Modules: Teleological Argument, Knowledge of God

THE MODERN PERIOD (c. 1750- Today)

Jeremy Bentham (b. 1748 - d. 1832)
Modules: Utilitarianism

Schleiermacher (b. 1766 - d. 1834)
Modules: Attributes of God

John Stuart Mill (b. 1806 - d. 1873)
Modules: Utilitarianism

Karl Marx (b. 1818 - d. 1883)
Modules: Liberation Theology

Synoptic links: Cosmological Argument
Ancient Greek Influences - Aristotle's view of the Prime Mover and its influence on Aquinas' Five Ways
Knowledge of God - the link between Natural Theology and the arguments based on observation of the natural world

Synoptic Links with the Teleological Argument
Ancient Greek Influences - Aristotle's teleological view of nature and its influence on Aquinas
Knowledge of God - the link between Natural Theology and the arguments based on observation of the natural world
Secularism - the fine-tuning argument may point to the compatibility between religion and science?
Theodicy - lack of design in the universe points to the non-existence of God

Synoptic Links with the Ontological Argument
Attribute of God – the question about how we define God has implications on how we understand his attributes
Mind, Body, Soul - we revisit Descartes

Synoptic links with Kant
Metaethics - though it is debatable whether Kant himself was an intuitionist, many deontologists that followed are intuitionists
Afterlife - Kant's three postulates, that we have free will, there must be an afterlife, and God must exist
Applied Ethics - application of Kantian ethics (especially the principles of universalizability and ends and not means) to euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics

Synoptic links with Utilitarianism
Metaethics - Draw a link between naturalism (a metaethical theory) and natural law and utilitarianism (normative ethical theories) - is goodness an observable feature of natural world?
Christian Moral Principles - Mill compared the principle of utility with the Golden Rule
Ancient Greek Influences - though outside the syllabus, can draw a link with Epicureanism
Applied Ethics - application of Kantian ethics (especially the principles of universalizability and ends and not means) to euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics

William James (b. 1842 - d. 1910)
Modules: Religious Experience

Francis Herbert Bradley (b. 1846 - d. 1924)
Modules: Metaethics

Sigmund Freud (b. 1856 - d. 1939)
Modules: Conscience, Religious Experience, Secularism

Bertrand Russell (b. 1872 - d. 1970)
Modules: Cosmological Argument, Secularism

Karl Barth (b. 1886 - d. 1968)
Modules: Pluralism and Theology, Death and Afterlife, Knowledge of God

Paul Tillich (b. 1886 - d. 1965)
Modules: Situation Ethics, Religious Language, Christian Moral Principles

H.A. Pritchard (b. 1871 - d. 1947)
Modules: Metaethics

George Edward Moore (b. 1873 - d. 1958)
Modules: Metaethics

W.D. Ross (b. 1877 - d. 1971)
Modules: Deontological Ethics, Metaethics

Hendrik Kraemar (b. 1888 - d. 1965)
Modules: Pluralism and Theology

Ludwig Wittgenstein (b. 1889 - d. 1951)
Modules: Religious Language

Charles Hartshorne (b. 1897 - d. 2000)
Modules: Attributes of God

Gilbert Ryle (b. 1900 - d. 1976)
Modules: Mind, Body, Soul

Karl Rahner (b. 1904 - d. 1984)
Modules: Pluralism and Theology

Synoptic links: Religious Experience
Jesus Christ - the miracles performed by Jesus Christ are examples of religious experience
Mind, Body, Soul - near-death experiences may point to life after death
Secularism - Freud's views about religion being a neurosis and infantile desire for a father figure
Pluralism and Theology - to what extent are religions phenomenal cultural constructs
Religious Language - the ineffability of God raises problems about religious language
Knowledge of God - knowledge of God can be gained directly through religious experience

Synoptic Links with Knowledge of God
Augustine on Human Nature - Augustine's view that humans are corrupted by original sin might be used to argue against Natural Theology
Cosmological/Teleological Argument - the link between Natural Theology and the arguments based on observation of the natural world
Pluralism and Theology/Afterlife - implications of natural theology and revealed theology on who can learn about God and will be saved
Jesus Christ - Barth's Theology of the Word
Secularism - Dawkins arguments against natural theology and revelation
Religious Experience - knowledge of God can be gained directly through religious experience

Synoptic Links with Metaethics
Natural Law Theory, Utilitarianism- Draw a link between naturalism (a metaethical theory) and natural law and utilitarianism (normative ethical theories) - is goodness an observable feature of natural world?
Kant - though it is debatable whether Kant himself was an intuitionist, many deontologists are intuitionists
Religious Language - A.J.Ayer on verification principle points to the meaninglessness of religious language and ethical language (emotivism)

Synoptic Links with Religious Language
Attributes of God – consider the limitations of using language and the danger of anthromorphising God. 'Superlatives are diminutives when applied to God'. We reduce him to a superman like figure

Joseph Fletcher (b. 1905 - d. 1991)
Modules: Situation Ethics

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (b. 1906 - d. 1945)
Modules: Moral Action

Frederick Copleston (b. 1907 - d. 1994)
Modules: Teleological Argument

Simone de Beauvoir (b. 1908 - d. 1986)
Modules: Gender and Society

C. L. Stevenson (b. 1908 - d. 1979)
Modules: Metaethics

A. J. Ayer (b. 1910 - d. 1989)
Modules: Religious language

Ian Ramsey (b. 1915 - d. 1972)
Modules: Religious Language

Basil Mitchell (b. 1917 - d. 2011)
Modules: Religious Language

Raimon Panikkar (b. 1918 - d. 2010)
Modules: Pluralism

John Macquarrie (b. 1919 - d. 2007)
Modules: Attributes of God

R. M. Hare (b. 1919 - d. 2002)
Modules: Religious Language

John Paul II (b. 1920 - d. 2005)
Modules: Pluralism and Society, Gender and Society, Liberation Theology

Philippa Foot (b. 1920 - d. 2010)
Modules: Metaethics

John Hick (b. 1922 - d. 2012)
Modules: Pluralism, Jesus Christ, Death and Afterlife, Theodicy

Ontological Argument – the question about how we define God
Ancient Greek Influences - the influence of neoplatonism on apophatic theology
Jesus Christ - Application of Via Negativa to Christology e.g. The Council of Chalcedon and doctrine of hypostatic union is guarded by apophatic language.

Synoptic Links: Situation Ethics
Conscience - compare Aquinas and Fletcher's view of conscience as an act
Natural Law Theory - contrast NLT with Situation Ethics as two distinctly Christian but different ethical approaches
Metaethics - Draw a link between naturalism (a metaethical theory) and natural law and utilitarianism (normative ethical theories) - is goodness an observable feature of natural world?
Christian Moral Principles - a comparison between Fletcher's situation ethics and Tillich's ethics (link)
Jesus Christ - Jesus' teaching on agape love and whether it should be privileged over his other teachings

Synoptic Links: Moral Action
Situation Ethics - influence of Bonhoeffer on Fletcher, especially on how rules can be broken
Jesus Christ - Bonhoeffer's concept of discipleship and costly grace, following Christ's example
Liberation Theology - Bonhoeffer's emphasis on right action to overcome structure of injustice may have influenced liberation theologians
Secularism- The example of Bonhoeffer might be used to defend positive impact religion can make on an individual

Synoptic Links with Pluralism and Theology
Pluralism and Society - the views of exclusivists, inclusivists and pluralists on issues of inter-religious dialogue and conversion
Secularism - atheist criticisms against religion and whether it promotes disharmony between groups
Knowledge of God - the issue of whether knowledge of God comes exclusively through revelation
Death and afterlife - different views of heaven and hell and whether everyone will go to heaven, including the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 25

Antony Flew (b. 1923 - d. 2010)
Modules: Religious Language

Pope Benedict (b. 1927)
Modules: Gender and Society, Liberation
Theology

Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928)
Modules: Liberation Theology

Mary Daly (b. 1928- d. 2010)
Modules: Feminism and Theology

Richard Swinburne (b. 1934)
Modules: Religious Experience, Knowledge of
God, Attributes of God

Rosemary Radford Ruether (b. 1936)
Modules: Feminism and Theology

E. P. Sanders (b. 1937)
Modules: Jesus Christ

Elisabeth Fiorenza (b. 1938)
Modules: Feminism and Theology

Leonardo Boff (b. 1938)
Modules: Liberation Theology

Richard Mouw (b. 1940)
Modules: Moral Principles

Richard Dawkins (b. 1941)
Modules: Mind, Body, Soul, Secularism,
Knowledge of God, Augustine on Human
Nature

Gerald O'Collins (b. 1942)
Modules: Jesus Christ

Peter Vardy (b. 1945)
Modules: Attributes of God

Attributes of God – God's benevolence and
justice and how it relates to questions about
judgement and salvation

Synoptic Links with Liberation Theology
Jesus Christ - our study of Christ as Liberator
could be used to support Liberation
Theology
Business Ethics - Marxist critique of
capitalism and how it gives rise to
exploitation and alienation
Christian Moral Action - Bonhoeffer's
emphasis on right action to overcome
structure of injustice may have influenced
liberation theologians
Situation Ethics - Fletcher's equating love
and justice is influenced by Marx

Synoptic Links with Gender and Theology
Ancient Greek Influences - Plato and
Aristotle's views of women
Gender & Society - liberal feminist and
radical feminist criticisms of Christianity and
John Paul II's defence of Catholic teaching
on the role of women
Christian Moral Principles - the bible's
attitude to women and scholarly criticism
against the Bible
Jesus Christ - the view of Jesus as a Servant
King rather than a Davidic Messiah may
support Ruether's project to reform
Christianity
Religious Experience - female spirituality
links to religious experience
Liberation Theology - the influence of
liberation theology on feminist theology
Attributes of God - contrast the traditional
view of God as 'Sky-Father' ruling over
creation with Process Theology
Religious Language - to what extent is
gendered language about God analogy?

Synoptic Links with Secularism
Cosmological and Teleological Argument -
the fine-tuning argument may point to the
compatibility between religion and science?
Knowledge of God - Dawkins arguments
against natural theology and revelation
Normative Ethics - question whether
Christian ethics promotes discrimination e.g.
NLT and Catholic teaching on homosexuality
Religious Language - verificationism and
falsificationism point to meaningless of
religious language
Feminism and Society - Feminist criticisms
against religion can be used to support need
to separate church and state

Peter Singer (b. 1946) Modules: Utilitarianism N.T. Wright (b. 1948) Modules: Jesus Christ Alister McGrath (b. 1953) Modules: Knowledge of God Simon Chan Modules: Feminism and Theology Reza Aslan (b. 1972) Modules: Jesus Christ	**Pluralism and Society** - Does exclusivism promote social disharmony in society? **Moral Action** - The example of Bonhoeffer might be used to defend positive impact religion can make on an individual **Augustine on Human Nature** - has the doctrine of original sin had a negative impact on society?