

# Religious Studies

## A Level

Awarding Body: OCR

### Course Introduction

Religious Studies A-Level takes your studies at GCSE to a much deeper level through studies of both Philosophy and Ethics. You may hold a personal religious faith or none to be successful at this course. In fact, the wider the range of views held in the class the better. Philosophy asks ultimate questions concerning who we are, and why we are here. Ethics considers what makes something right or wrong, and how we should navigate the complexities of issues in today's society. These two disciplines offer the chance for you to interact with some of the deeper questions of life, and develop an understanding of different religious, non-religious and cultural answers. You will analyze and debate some of the questions that have been contested over thousands of years. Can you out-think the greatest thinkers?!

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### Section 1 Philosophy of Religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences (Plato, Aristotle)
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

### Section 2 Religion and Ethics:

- A variety of ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

### Section 3 Development in Religious Thought:

In the context of Christianity and Islam:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

**How will I learn?**

You will learn through activities designed to promote independent enquiry and critical thinking such as discussions, debates and role-plays. Enquiry questions will challenge you to think outside the box and reflect on alternative perspectives. There will be a focus on essay skills for written work. The questions and topics discussed are challenging but debating issues is always fun!

**Examination**

You will be assessed entirely based on written exams where there is one type of question where both AO1 (knowledge) and AO2 (Evaluation and Analysis) are assessed. You will also reflect on which view is strongest in relation to a statement.

At the end of the course (A2) there are three exams of 2h00.

**Progression**

An A-Level in Religious Studies is a sound academic qualification for whatever you choose to do in the future. Some students go on to study Theology or Philosophy at University, but as it expands your understanding of different people and cultures, alongside developing critical thinking and analytical skills it will be useful for many subjects and career-paths. A-Level Religious Studies ably prepares students for careers working with people such as medicine, law, journalism, media and the care and social sectors as well as enhancing the life-skills needed for many other jobs.

***Many top universities favour students with an A-Level in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion as it enhances your skills of critical thinking and prepares you for the higher-order thinking you will need to pursue any degree at university.***

**Entry requirement:**

Minimum of GCSE English Language Grade 6 / Religious Studies Grade 6 (if previously studied)

**Cost:**

Each unit has a corresponding textbook and revision guide which students would need to purchase.

**Contact:**

**For further information please contact Mrs L'grindi (Head of RE).**