

A-Level Religious Studies

COURSE OUTLINE

A-Level Religious Studies asks the kinds of questions that are unavoidable if one wants to live a thoughtful, responsible and fruitful life. A-Level RS is interesting, fun and applicable to all aspects of life and beyond. Whilst the three aspects of the course are demanding and rigorous, many students find the rewards enriching and complimentary to any future study or career development. A-Level Religious Studies develops academic skills that are essential and widely transferable to other areas of study and the professional world. Due to its unique emphasis on clarity, argumentation and critical evaluation, A-Level Religious Studies will:

- Develop students' powers of reasoning.
- Clarify and improve communication, both written and spoken.
- Improve the ability to critique objectively.
- Show how to get to the heart of an issue, and to distinguish it from less important matters.
- Organise thoughts rationally and present them in a clear, coherent manner

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students who wish to study Religious Studies at A-Level are required to have a Grade 5 in GCSE English and a GCSE Grade 5 in Religious Studies.

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

The course is divided up into 3 papers - each paper is worth 33% of the total course.

- 1) In Philosophy of Religion learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief, including:
 - Ancient philosophical influences; 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.
- 2) The study of Religion and Ethics is characterised by a study of:
 - Normative ethical theories and the application of these, as well as key ethical concepts; the application of ethical theory to Medical Ethics and Business Ethics.
 - Ethical language and thought; Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience; Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.
- 3) Developments in Religious Thought: Christianity provides an opportunity for the systematic study of Christianity, including an exploration of:
 - religious beliefs, values and teachings;
 - their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world;
 - sources of religious wisdom and authority.

Topics include: St Augustine's teaching on human nature; Knowledge of God's existence; Christian Moral Principles and Action; Religious Pluralism; Gender; Secularism; Liberation Theology and Marxism Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

PROGRESSION

The study of Philosophy and Ethics enables students to develop intellectual and academic skills which help them to make a smooth transition into Higher Education and the world of work. This subject lends itself well to University courses such as Theology, Law, Psychology, Politics, English, Sociology etc. Skills acquired in this subject can be used in jobs such as the police force, social work, teaching and law.