



Religious Studies A level (OCR)

Why study this subject?

Religious Studies at A level is designed to give you an acquaintance with philosophical and ethical concepts, themes, and texts. You will develop a range of transferable skills that can be applied far beyond the ambit of Religious Studies.

The A level course concentrates on a number of key philosophical and ethical themes intending to provide you with a broad introduction to the philosophy of religion and ethics. There is also a unit on religious thought which will give students an introduction to Christian beliefs, values and teachings related to the contemporary world.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

The A level course is split into three units: philosophy of religion; religion and ethics; and developments in religious thought.

Themes covered in the philosophy of religion unit include ancient philosophical influences (Plato and Aristotle), the body and soul, life after death, religious experience, the existence of God, challenges to belief in God, the nature of God, religious language, and twentieth century perspectives to religious language.

Themes covered in the Ethics unit include normative ethical theories, applying ethical theories to sexual ethics and euthanasia, key concepts within ethical language, meta-ethics, free will, conscience, and development in ethical thought being influenced by religion.

Themes in the Developments in Religious Thought unit include the nature and purpose of human life, immorality, knowledge and revelation of God, the Bible, the nature of Jesus Christ, the challenge of secularism and the responses, pluralism in society, and gender in society and theology.

Assessment

At the end of the A level course there are three written examinations, each lasting 120 minutes and worth 33.3% of the course. In each paper, two questions must be answered.

Future courses and possible careers

Religious Studies is widely recognised and happily accepted as an entry qualification for further and higher education courses. You will develop the skills of research, interpretation and critical thinking. You will also cultivate an enquiring and analytical mind, capable of empathetic understanding, showing appreciation of a wide range of complex ethical and moral issues. You will be able to assimilate new information comprehensively, integrate ideas and concepts, and then apply these to form balanced, informed opinions. These skills, of course, are particularly valuable in a variety of careers.