

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS & RELIGION

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The course gives students the opportunity to develop their philosophical and ethical thinking skills and put very famous arguments to the test. It is an excellent preparation for university, as we encourage learning through discussion, engagement with famous primary texts and independent research.

COURSE DETAILS

Qualification: A' level
Religious Studies
Awarding Body: Edexcel
Entry Requirements: 5
GCSE grades 4-9, including
both English Language
and Maths plus GCSE
Grade 5 in a Humanities
subject

You don't have to be religious to study this course and you don't have to have studied it at GCSE. You just have to be interested in the most important questions that humans can ask and you must be prepared to think logically and critically about the way that you argue.

COURSE STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

Students will study the following:

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

- The Design Argument
- The Cosmological Argument
- The Ontological Argument
- Problems of evil and suffering, different types of problems and solutions
- Religious Experience
- Religious Language
- Influences of developments in life after death
- Scholars linked to psychological and sociological views

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

- Utilitarianism
- Situation ethics
- Natural Moral Law
- Issues of war and peace
- Sexual ethics
- Ethical language
- Deontology, virtue ethics
- Medical Ethics – with a focus on beginning and end of life

Paper 4 (4B) Christianity

- Religious belief and values – including the nature of God
- The Trinity and Nature of the Church
- Sources of wisdom
- Practices – expressions of religious identity
- Social and historical developments – secularisation, liberation and feminist theology
- Work of scholars
- Religion and society
- Study of primary texts relating to significance for believers

Students will complete all external assessments at the end of the second year. The examination within RS consists of three externally examined papers. Each Paper will be a written exam lasting 2 hours, worth 33.33% of the total grade with 80 marks available per paper.

- Section A – Two short structured questions
- Section B – Two extended response questions on an unseen passage
- Section C – An extended essay question