

A Level Religious Studies

The Course

In Religious Studies you will explore Philosophy, Ethics and Religion through building on the skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation learned through GCSE. At A Level you will have the opportunity to develop an understanding and appreciation of philosophical and religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. You are also encouraged to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of philosophy and religion and are invited to reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your study.

The Content

The first part of the course will focus on what philosophy is, and the kinds of questions that philosophers ask and attempt to answer. We then analyse arguments for and against the existence of God, address challenges to religious belief through problems such as evil, and question the threat to religion that modern day movements such as new atheism pose.

The focus is on understanding the frameworks that can be used to navigate difficult ethical problems such as war in the modern age. Students will learn about utilitarian and deontological ethics and assess in what ways they are useful today. Finally, the religion component of the course will give students the opportunity to study either Buddhism or Christianity (final decision dependent on student preferences). Both religions offer fascinating insights into humanity's past and present whilst raising questions about its future role.

Assessment

100% examined. There is no coursework.

Subject entry requirements

GCSE Religious Studies at grade 5 or above as a minimum if taken, GCSE English Lit grade 6 or above.

Pathways/Careers

Students go on to successfully study or work in many fields, including:

Politics	Journalist	Business	Philosophy
Law	Medicine	Public Services	Social work
Education	International Development	Healthcare	Advertising