

# A Level Religious Studies

## Why study religious studies at A Level?

If you have ever wondered about life's biggest questions, then this might be the subject for you!

Why is there something rather than nothing? Is there any purpose to existence? What is the purpose of punishment? The topics we cover range from views on life after death to whether it is moral to allow people to be euthanised or have abortions.

Whether you have studied the subject at GCSE or not the course is accessible to everyone.

## What will I study?

The first part of the course focuses on what philosophy is and the kinds of questions philosophers ask. You will 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 answer difficult ethical problems such as war in the modern age.

You will also learn about utilitarian and deontological ethics and assess in what ways they are useful today.

The religion component of the course will give you the opportunity to study either Buddhism or Christianity. Both religions offer fascinating insights into humanity's past and present whilst raising questions about its future role.

## Assessment

100% examined.

**Paper 1:** Religion (Christianity or Buddhism). Two essay questions assessing knowledge/understand and evaluation.

**Paper 2:** Philosophy. Two essay questions assessing knowledge/understand and evaluation.

**Paper 3:** Ethics. Two essay questions assessing knowledge/understand and evaluation.

## Study trips, visits and events

You will have the opportunity to attend lectures by famous philosophers like Peter Vardy on key areas of the course, and subscribe to the quarterly *RS Review* magazine.

A Sixth Form trip to Rome is also a possibility dependent upon interest. This trip would focus on visiting places of special philosophical and religious interest as well as the opportunity to sample Italian culture.

## Subject entry requirements

6 in Religious Studies if taken, or 6 in English Literature if not taken.