



Religious Studies

Awarding Body: OCR

Level: A-Level

Introduction

If you enjoyed Religious Studies at GCSE here is a chance to extend your studies and further your knowledge of this exciting subject. This subject will encourage you to think more deeply about some of the most important questions in the world. You would study the OCR syllabus, exploring philosophy, ethics and the development of Christian thought. A-Level Religious Studies allows you to develop the skills of analytical, critical and logical thinking. Religious Studies combines well with many subject options and requires that you have a real interest in philosophical and ethical questions as well as religion in our world today.

Year one content

Your study will look at many aspects of Religious Studies which develops further topics learned at AQA GCSE Religious Studies. Your study will include the following:

- Philosophy of Religion: You will start with the study of Ancient Greek philosophers leading to an exploration of the mind, body and soul. There will be much debate around the problem of evil, arguments for the existence of God, as well as the impact and reality of religious experiences.
- Developments in Christian thought: You will begin by understanding the fundamental beliefs of Christians and their belief in God's existence. This will lead to a debate around death and the afterlife, as well as our human nature. You will explore Christian moral principles and study the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
- Religion and Ethics: You will study four ethical theories throughout year 12; Natural Law, Situation ethics, Kantian ethics, and Utilitarianism. You will then apply these to moral decisions found in the ethics of euthanasia and business ethics.

Year two content

At A-Level the subject continues to study new concepts, also including:

- Philosophy of Religion: You will study theological and philosophical developments throughout history, leading to an exploration of religious language.
- Developments in Christian thought: You will explore the rise of secularism and pluralist societies and the impact on faith. We will study liberation theology, as well as gender and society and theology.
- Religious and Ethics: You will apply the four ethical theories from Year one to sexual ethics. You will explore ethical language in depth, and the psychological and theological explanation for a conscience.

The A-Level will consist of 3 written exams, all of which will be taken in June of the second year of teaching. Each exam is 2 hours long and will consist of three 40 mark questions.

What you need

GCSE grade 5 in Philosophy & Religion (PR) An alternative acceptable entry qualification if you do not study GCSE Religious Studies is a 5 in English Language or Literature. As essay writing is an integral part of the course, a solid grounding in these subjects is essential.

Career and further study

Religious Studies provides an essential foundation for a wide variety of career areas including: education, law, medicine, social work, police force, journalism, the armed services, politics, health and social science, charity work, business etc.

Trips and other costs

You are expected to purchase your own text books and revision guides.