



A-Level Religious Studies

This qualification is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

A-Level Religious Studies aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

Qualities and qualifications needed

Must have an interest in the subject and an ability to read extensively outside of the classroom and complete independent learning of other kinds. Must have a good written style and willingness to write extended essays. Grade 6 in English language and grade 5 in Religious Studies (if studied).

How will the course be assessed?



There are three examination papers of equal weighting

each requiring three extended written responses that include analysis and evaluation of the topics listed in the course content overleaf.



Course content

Philosophy

- Ancient philosophical influences.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.
- Ideas about the nature of God.
- Issues in religious language.

Ethics

- Formative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance.
- Ethical language and thought.
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience.
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Development of religious thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority.
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition.
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.



Examinations



3 x 2 hour examinations – 33.3%.

Each examination requires three essays worth 40 marks each (for those studying GCSE, this is similar to much more detailed D part questions).

Methods of teaching and learning

Students will be required to complete Flip Learning tasks and extensive reading alongside lessons. The taught lessons will include, research, presentations, essay technique and will be differentiated by need.