

Religious Studies

A level – Eduqas

Course Leader: Miss Mandher

What is it all about?

This 'A' level course offers opportunity for the combined study of philosophy and ethics as well as the study of one religion. The questions that philosophy investigates are the most profound questions that we can ask. It investigates the deepest aspects of what it means to be human. Are we simply animals that have evolved, or do we have a spiritual dimension that will survive the death of our bodies? Does God exist, and if so, what does God expect of us? What can we know about the world we live in, and is certainty important? Is there one moral code for all people to live by, or is right and wrong simply a matter of culture? Whether you study these questions in a religious context or not, they are questions that get to the heart of our existence.

What will I learn on this course?

Component 1: A Study of Religion

Learners will have an opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of one religion covering themes ranging from religious figures and sacred texts to practices that shape religious identity. They will study the nature of God and beliefs about death and afterlife as well as the meaning and purpose of life. They will examine significant social and historical development in religious thought as well as the challenges of secularisation, science and the changing role of men and women. An exploration of themes of equality, discrimination and religious tolerance also form a part of this component.

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion

In philosophy of religion, learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problem of evil and suffering. They will also explore philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in the philosophy of religion.

Component 3: Religion and Ethics

The study of religion and ethics is characterised by both a study of ethical thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in religion and ethics, and by the application of ethical theory to issues of importance. Learners will study ethical theories and key ethical concepts, as well as developments in the way these ideas are applied to significant issues in religious belief.

How will I be assessed?

This is a two-year linear course.

3 x 2 hour written examinations.

What are the entry requirements?

9-5 in GCSE English language and GCSE English literature. However, we will consider a 9-4 in GCSE English.

This course would be ideal if you are interested in exploring some thought-provoking contemporary themes. You will gain a thorough understanding of diverse ethical viewpoints as well as gaining critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.

What do your current students say?

“Taking ‘A’ level religious studies has certainly opened my mind to many different aspects of life. I have debated and analysed whether God exists, why so many awful things happen in life and whether there is a bigger picture. Do we possess free will or is it an illusion? I found the content fascinating and fun to learn!”

“This is a very intriguing subject. Exploring the big questions of life and existence, religious studies students develop an all-rounded understanding of various issues facing society and examine how ethicists interpret them. This could range from euthanasia to genetic engineering, and how things come into existence, for example, did God really create the world? Studying this subject is like nothing you have ever done!”

Is there anything else I need to know?

It is very important that you take this subject seriously and ensure that you keep up with any work set during lessons or out of hours. Like most things in life, you will need to work hard in this subject but the rewards you get out of it will more than compensate for this.

We expect you to be fully committed and actively participate in lessons as well as make the most of the teachers’ advice and guidance.

Who can I contact for further information?

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