

Religious Studies

Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board: AQA

A level Religious Studies is an exciting, relevant and often controversial subject that develops the skills of investigation, evaluation, analysis, interpretation, communication and debate.

Summary of content:

There are three components on which students will be assessed in the second year of study.

Component 1: Philosophy

Students will study a range of fascinating philosophical topics including:

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death

Component 2: Ethics

A variety of interesting topics will be addressed including:

- Deontological and teleological ethical theories including Natural Law, Situation Ethics and Virtue Ethics
- Issues of human life and death, including abortion, euthanasia, embryo research and capital punishment
- Issues of animal life and death, including animal experimentation and blood sports
- Introduction to meta-ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility. Is freedom an illusion?
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant

Component 3: Christianity

This section is devoted to the study of Christianity in the following contexts:

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality
- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism

Summary of assessment scheme:

The A level is 100% exam based.

It consists of two 3hr exams, both sat at the end of the course in June 2021.

Frequently Asked Questions

What jobs relate to Religious Studies?

Religious Studies will be useful to you in any number of careers, such as teaching, youth work, journalism, civil service and law, to name but a few. It is also looked favourably upon for under-graduate university courses.

Do I have to believe in God?

Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith and for those who have no faith. It is not necessary for you to have studied Religious Studies at GCSE, although students who have a GCSE in this subject will find that the A Level builds upon their knowledge, understanding and skills. All that is required is a desire to find out more about religion and its role in society.

Susannah Ephgrave
Head of Religious Studies