

Religious Studies Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board: AQA

Summary of content:

AS - Students look at both Ethics and Philosophy

Ethics

- Students look at various ways of making ethical decisions with a particular focus on Utilitarianism Situation Ethics and Kantian Ethics. We apply these theories to a number of different ethical scenarios and evaluate their impact.
- Students look at the issues of Abortion and Euthanasia from a number of religious and non-religious perspectives.

Philosophy

- Student will look at the topics of atheism and post-modernism and consider whether religion is in retreat in the modern world. They will consider the relationship between science and religion and ponder whether it is possible to accept both religious and scientific accounts. They will also reflect upon the problems of evil and suffering create for theists.
- Students will look at a variety of religious experience, such as miracles, visions and conversion and consider psychological views of religion.

A2

The second (A2) year of Religious Studies enables students to study in greater depth aspects of one or more religions including ethical, philosophical and psychological perspectives. In particular, we will focus on questions surrounding medical ethics, free will, libertarianism and determinism and attitudes to marriage and sexual relationships.

Summary of assessment scheme:

AS Level: 100% exam. In the first year, students will take two papers. Each exam lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes. Students are required to answer two essay questions from a choice of four in each exam.

A2 Level: In year 2, each exam lasts for 1 hour and 30 minutes. In Unit 3, students answer two essay questions from a choice of four and in Unit 4, they answer one question from a choice of two on the topic chosen.

Why should you consider studying Religious Studies in the 6th Form?

This is an exciting, relevant and often controversial subject that develops skills of investigation, evaluation, analysis, interpretation, communication and debate.

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, to name but a few. It is also looked upon favourably 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 people who have no faith. It is not necessary to have taken Religious Studies at GCSE, although students who have a GCSE will find that the AS/A Level builds on their knowledge, understanding and skills. All that is required is a desire to find out more about religion and its role in society.

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