

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 two components on which students will be assessed.

Component 1: Philosophy and religion

Students will study a number of interesting topics in a Christian context including:

- **Arguments for the existence of God.**
- **God/gods/Ultimate Reality.**
- **Life after death.**
- **Sources of wisdom and authority.**
- Evil and suffering.
- Religious experience.
- Religious language.
- Miracles.
- Self and life after death.
- The nature and function of religion.

Component 2: Ethics, religion and society

Students will study a number of interesting topics in a Christian context including:

- **Ethical theories.**
- **Issues of human life and death.**
- **Issues of animal life and death.**
- Introduction to meta ethics.
- Free will and moral responsibility.
- Conscience.
- Bentham and Kant.

Topics highlighted in bold are studied at both AS and A level

Summary of assessment scheme:

Both AS and A levels are 100% exam based.

The AS consists of two 1hr 45 min exams, both sat in the year of study.

The A level consists of two 3hr exams, both sat at the end of the course in June 2018.

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 AS/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
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