

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam Board: Edexcel



Aims of this A Level Course

To enable students to:

- identify basic questions of Theology and to explore these within the context of Christian tradition and scholarship.
- develop knowledge and critical understanding of ethical, philosophical and scriptural issues.
- make connections between areas of study and aspects of human experience.
- demonstrate an ability to express themselves clearly and logically in an intelligent argument, and to develop the skill of critical evaluation.

Types of Learning Experience:

Students are taught in small groups where possible and a variety of approaches are used: teacher presentation, student led seminars, discussion/debate and use of film/documentary materials are all used regularly. There is also the emphasis on students undertaking extensive reading both in and outside lessons and developing their own style of note taking. Where possible, external conferences are attended to consolidate these teaching methods.

Link Subjects:

Religious Studies may be taken with any other subject, combining well with arts subjects and complementing scientific and technical subjects in a positive way.

Progressing to Higher Education:

Religious Studies is a demanding yet rewarding subject for those with the ability to meet the challenge. It is a recognised and Russell Group recommended advanced level subject from which to progress to a variety of university and Higher Education courses.

Careers:

A qualification in Religious Studies at A level or beyond is accepted by a wide range of employers as a valued qualification for entry to a broad spectrum of careers. Its ethical aspects are particularly valued by the legal and medical professions.

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. GCSE RE at grade 5 or above is preferred

Unit 1 Philosophy of Religion

Design Argument
Cosmological Argument
Ontological Argument
Religious Experience
The problem of evil & suffering (theodicy)

Philosophical language
Psychological & sociological critiques of religion
Beliefs in life after death
Religion and science

Unit 2 Religion and Ethics

Environmental issues
Equality
Utilitarianism
Situation Ethics
Natural Moral Law
War & Peace
Sexual Ethics
Meta-ethics
Religion & morality
Kantian deontology
Aristotelian Virtue Ethics
Medical ethics (beginning & end of life)

Unit 3 New Testament Studies

Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament
The prologue in John
Titles of Jesus in the synoptic gospels
Miracles and signs
The synoptic problem
Purpose & authorship of John
Ways of interpreting scripture
The Kingdom of God in Luke
Why did Jesus have to die?
Crucifixion & resurrection in Luke
Scientific & historical critical challenges
How should we live?

Assessment:

Three written examinations (2 hours each)
Section A: Three short structured questions
Section B: Two extended responses to unseen passages
Section C: A choice of two extended essay questions

