

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam Board: Edexcel



## Aims of the 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 desirable.

## 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: Two short structured questions  
Section B: Two extended responses to set passages  
Section C: One extended synoptic essay question

