

A Level Religious Studies

What the course covers

We study the new OCR A Level Religious Studies specification (H573). The content has been designed to provide a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study for students, whilst also acting as a rigorous course of study which prepares you for progression to Higher Education.

This qualification is designed to nurture the development of critical and reflective thinking through a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. An emphasis is placed on critical analysis and the construction of balanced, informed arguments within the context of a religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.

Religious Studies at A Level consists of three units:

Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion - You will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God and the problems of evil and suffering. You will also explore philosophical language and thought through the works of key scholars.

Unit 2: Religion and Ethics - You will study some key ethical theories, from a range of philosophers such as Aquinas, Kant and Bentham on how to lead a good life, and if this is indeed possible. These ethical theories will then be applied to issues of contemporary importance such as euthanasia and business behaviour.

Unit 3: The systematic study of Christianity. This will include exploration of religious beliefs, values and teachings, sources of wisdom and authority and practices that shape and express religious identity. We will also investigate how Christianity has evolved and developed over time, and responded to challenges and significant contemporary issues.

The complete specification can be viewed on the OCR website. www.ocr.org.uk

What students can do with this course

Religious Studies A Level is useful for degrees in the Arts and Social Science disciplines, although it does not limit students to one particular direction of study. The wide ranging skills and knowledge the course provides allows students to move on to a host of further studies and career paths. Areas of work that some students have gone into in the past are: law, teaching, journalism, policing and social work, to name a few.

How this course is assessed

Paper 1 - Philosophy of religion- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 2 - Religion and ethics- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 3 - Developments in religious thought- 2 hours, 33.3%

Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.