

Religious Studies

A - Level OCR

“The unexamined life is not worth living” - Socrates

Ever since humans started to think, religion and philosophy have been a fundamental part of our development. In the 21st century, religion continues to address the same eternal human questions about life and death, values and relationships, right and wrong. Of all the factors affecting relationships between people of different ethnicity, culture or religion, perhaps ignorance is the most significant. Religious Studies is an ideal opportunity to learn about other people’s religious beliefs, and to develop community cohesion.

This is an exciting time to begin A-Level Religious Studies at the college as we launch a fascinating new course.

What skills will I gain?

“RS A level provides an excellent foundation for a range of careers – from medicine to public service to business. Imagine how better prepared a doctor or business professional is if they understand the culture and customs of the individuals they are treating or dealing with. Or how a broad and deep knowledge of different world faiths and beliefs can help young people truly understand the context of events in the Middle East.”

Students gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media. Religious studies is a thought provoking subject and the contemporary themes will inspire engaging classroom discussion.

How will I be assessed?

Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. There are three assessed components. Students must take exams in each:

- **Philosophy of religion**
 - Nature of God
 - Arguments for & against existence of God
 - Nature of mind, body & soul
 - The problem of evil
- **Religion and ethics**
 - Ethical theories (Utilitarianism, deontology, Natural Law...)
 - Application of ethical theory to euthanasia and business ethics
 - Sexual ethics
 - Debated around the idea of conscience
- **Developments in religious thought**
 - Sources of religious wisdom and authority
 - Religious beliefs and their connections to history and the contemporary world
 - Religious identity
 - The relationship between religion and society e.g. gender roles and social justice

There is no coursework.

Who’s it for?

Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith and 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. You should give this course serious consideration if you are interested in religion and philosophy.

We welcome all students who are independent, organised and can manage their time, although we usually recommend a good grade in English, as you will be required to read and analyse information in order to focus your discussion and written essays.

See Mrs Barron or your RPE teacher for further information.
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