

RELIGIOUS STUDIES **(Philosophy and Ethics)** **A Level**



Where do I start from?

Along with the School's minimum requirements, you will need a minimum grade B in GCSE English or GCSE Humanities subject. You do not have to have studied Religious Studies before, but if you have, you need to achieve a grade B. It is essential that you are able to approach issues in a logical, clear-thinking manner. You also need to be aware that essay writing is a key to success at A Level.

OCR Religious Studies A Level

What will I study?

The new OCR Religious Studies course is designed to build upon the OCR GCSE course and provides a natural progression for students, although it is not essential that you have completed the GCSE course first.

There are three units of study in this course. The Philosophy of Religion unit will cover the influences of Ancient Greek philosophy and Judaeo-Christian philosophy on later philosophical traditions. It will also look at a range of philosophical arguments for the existence of God, drawing on philosophers ranging from Bertrand Russell to Kant and David Hume.

In the Religious Ethics part of the course, you will study a range of ethical theories, from Kant's Categorical Imperative to Aristotle's virtue ethics. We will also consider what it means to talk about ethics and whether or not ethics can be considered either relative or absolute.

To complete the A Level, you will study further topics in Y13 such as Religious Language and Experience, as well as Free Will and Determinism.

The final part of the A Level concerns developments in religious thought. Here you will look at how religious beliefs and values have developed over time. This will include looking at how religious scriptures have been composed and interpreted, as well as the challenges of modern religious thinking to an established faith.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course. There are three external written papers at the end of the course. Each paper lasts two hours and consists of a choice of single-part essay questions.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style and will use a wide range of resources, including texts, audio and video. A great emphasis is placed upon your ability to contribute to discussions and to write fluently. To achieve at a high level in this subject, you need to have read widely. The greater your understanding of different philosophical and ethical concepts, the more mature and successful your own responses will be.

What does the subject combine well with?

This is the sort of subject which combines well with most other choices. Since there are philosophical disciplines in art, science, mathematics and politics (amongst others) it is possible to transfer many of the concepts you study to your other subjects.