

Religious Studies - Key Stage 5 – A-Level Curriculum

Overview	<p>A-Level Religious Studies is a thought provoking and rigorous academic subject which enables students to have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints. Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any religion as well as for people who do not follow any religion. Contemporary themes are included in the course and help to inspire engaging classroom discussion.</p> <p>Students will explore topics such as the conditions of moral responsibility and free will, the challenges with verifying religious experiences and ethical theories such as utilitarianism.</p> <p>On the course, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt an enquiring and reflective approach to the study of ethics, philosophy and Christianity • Study the viewpoints of some of the most important philosophers and theologians • Develop critical reasoning skills • Participate in discussion and debate • Apply religious concepts to contemporary culture • Learn through textual analysis <p>Recognised as a valuable subject by all universities, A-Level Religious Studies will support students for higher education and a variety of careers, which require the use of effective written and verbal communication as well as being able to analyse and construct logical arguments.</p>								
Examination Board and Specification	<p>AQA A-Level Religious Studies</p>								
Assessment	<p>This qualification is linear – students will sit all their exams at the end of the course in Year 13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics • Paper 2: Study of Religion and Ethics <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;">Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: left;">Paper 2: A Study of Religion (Christianity) and Dialogues</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> What's assessed: Section A: Philosophy of Religion Section B: Ethics and Religion </td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> What's assessed: Section A: Christianity Section B: Dialogue between Philosophy and Religion Section C: Dialogue between Ethical Studies and Religion </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-Level </td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-Level </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Philosophy of Religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks • Section B: Ethics and Religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks In both sections, questions may span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2. </td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> Questions: Section A: Study of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks. Questions may be set that span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2. Section B: Dialogue on Philosophy – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks). Section C: Dialogue on Ethics – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks). </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Students must demonstrate skills that meet the following assessment objectives:</p> <p>AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief</p> <p>AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study</p>	Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics	Paper 2: A Study of Religion (Christianity) and Dialogues	What's assessed: Section A: Philosophy of Religion Section B: Ethics and Religion	What's assessed: Section A: Christianity Section B: Dialogue between Philosophy and Religion Section C: Dialogue between Ethical Studies and Religion	How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-Level 	How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-Level 	Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Philosophy of Religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks • Section B: Ethics and Religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks In both sections, questions may span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2.	Questions: Section A: Study of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks. Questions may be set that span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2. Section B: Dialogue on Philosophy – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks). Section C: Dialogue on Ethics – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks).
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<p>Year 12/13</p>	<p>Students will study the following:</p> <p>Philosophy of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for the existence of God • Evil and Suffering • Religious Experience • Religious Language • Miracles • Self and Life After Death <p>Ethics and Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical Theories • Issues of Human Life and Death • Issues of Animal Life and Death • Introduction to Meta Ethics • Free Will and Moral Responsibility • Conscience • Bentham and Kant <p>Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of Wisdom and Authority • God/Gods/Ultimate Reality • Self, Death and the Afterlife • Good Conduct and Key Moral Principles • Expression of Religious Identity • Religion, Gender and Sexuality • Religion and Science • Religion and Secularisation • Religion and Religious Pluralism <p>Dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied <p>Dialogue between ethical studies and religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Homework is set on a regular basis, but the emphasis is on the students making themselves strong and independent learners. Constant guidance and support will be offered by teachers but students are to be resourceful and enthusiastic learners who are able to think for themselves and work autonomously.</p>
<p>Extra-Curricular and Revision</p>	<p>The department will offer trips such as the 16+ Question Time Events with other sixth form colleges at Westminster Abbey, Outstanding A-Level RE Learning Conferences and lectures on key ethical and philosophical issues in and around London.</p> <p>Revision sessions are offered to students in the run up to exams, and this will take place in the holidays, before and after school and even on Saturday mornings.</p>
<p>Higher Education, Careers and Progression Routes</p>	<p>Religious Studies is looked upon favourably for undergraduate courses at universities. Students gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.</p> <p>Religious Studies is one of the fastest growing subjects. This is partly because it is compatible with, and has a similar skills base to, subjects such as English, History, Sociology, Philosophy and Politics.</p>
<p>Useful Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQA Examination Board and Example Exam Questions: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062 • RE Review