6th form

# RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (RS)

## Course Level

A Level

## Awarding Body

EDUQAS

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE RS or Grade 6 in GCSE Geography, GCSE History or GCSE English Language.

## Assessment

**Component 1:** An introduction to the Study of Religion (Christianity)
**Written examination:** 2 hours, 33.3% of qualification.

**Component 2:** An introduction to Philosophy of Religion
**Written examination:** 2 hours, 33.3% of qualification.

**Component 1:** An introduction to Religion and Ethics
**Written examination:** 2 hours, 33.3% of qualification.

The study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at A Level is engaging, academically rigorous and excellent preparation for a wide range of courses at degree level. The subject involves a study of philosophical, theological and ethical theories which underpin and structure our world today. Philosophy explores the nature of reality and meaning. Ethics is the branch of Philosophy that examines how we should live. An understanding of these ideas is essential to an informed and nuanced engagement with key themes in politics, law, medicine, education, human rights and religion. Through the study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics students will develop the ability to formulate and structure an argument, identify and draw out weaknesses and to express themselves logically and with precision.

Projected course content

The A Level will be made up of three components: The Study of Religion, Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics. Each component will be assessed through a written exam. Component 1 (The Study of Religion) will involve a study of Christianity and will focus on the following topics; religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts and religious life; significant social and historical developments in religious thought; religious practices and religious identity. Component 2 (Philosophy of Religion) will involve a study of; arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; religious experience; religious language. Component 3 (Religion and Ethics) will involve a study of; ethical language and thought; deontological ethics; teleological ethics; freewill and determinism.

Aims and objectives

- Develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to the individual, communities and society.
- Adopt an enquiring, critical, and reflective approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

By the end of the A Level course students will have developed the ability to

- Construct well informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence
- Understand, interpret and evaluate critically religious concepts, texts and other sources
- Present responses to questions which are clear and coherent
- Use specialist language and terminology appropriately
- Identify, investigate and critically analyse questions, arguments, ideas and issues arising from the chosen approaches
- Engage in debate in a way that is respectful of the right of others to hold a different view
- Critically analyse and evaluate the views and arguments of scholars / academics
- Account for the influence of social, religious and historical factors on developments in the study of religions and beliefs
- Analyse the nature of connections between the various elements of their course of study
- Develop breadth and depth in their understanding of the connections between the knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the specification as a whole

Special Requirements

There is an expectation that students will carry out independent learning tasks linked to the topics being studied. Suggested tasks will be provided.

Career and Progression Opportunities

An A Level in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and is excellent preparation for degrees in Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Anthropology and Law. Graduates in these subjects may go on to careers in Law, Civil Service, Foreign Office and Teaching. The Ethical theories studied are also highly relevant to degrees in Medicine, Science and Business.

Link to specification: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview