

A-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES



WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT A-LEVEL?

Religious studies A-Level will ensure students gain a thorough understanding of the diverse philosophical and ethical views within contemporary society. Religious studies is a thought provoking subject and our contemporary themes will help you engage in intriguing classroom discussions. Students will explore philosophical issues such as the nature and existence of God, the problem of evil, life after death, the role of religion in society and the challenges to religion from science and from secularism. We will also explore a range of ethical theories, and apply them to crucial ethical issues such as medical ethics, sexual ethics, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and animal rights.

The course allows students to explore Islam in depth, looking at the diversity of views within Islam and focus particularly on areas such as authority, morality and the nature of faith. What is the authority of the Qur'an? Does God command what is good or is goodness what is commanded by God? What are the Muslim views on contemporary moral issues in society today?

TOPICS STUDIED

Component 1

Philosophy of Religion & Ethics

Section A: Philosophy of religion

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death.

Section B: Ethics and religion

- 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.

Component 2

Study of Religion & Dialogues

Section A: Study of religion – Islam 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.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

The exams will include two written exams; each exam would be for both components of study.

PAPER 1

Philosophy of religion and ethics

- 3 hour exam
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

PAPER 2

Study of religion and dialogues

- 3 hour exam
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

CAREER PATHWAY

Students will gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

A-Level Religious Studies (philosophy and ethics) is an excellent subject choice. It's a fascinating and enlightening subject to study.

Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. The A-Level syllabus combines the in-depth study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics with the study of a major world religion and the development of thought within it.

A-Level Religious Studies is also a highly engaging subject, and you can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay-writing. The course is suitable for students of all faiths and none. All that is required is an open, enquiring mind and a willingness to engage fully with the issues.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mrs H Begum, Subject Lead Religious Education, hbegum@lighthall.co.uk

READING LIST:

- AQA A-level Religious Studies Year 2 Paperback – 29 Sept. 2017 by [John Frye](#) (Author), [Debbie Herring](#) (Author), [Mel Thompson](#) (Author)
- AQA A-level Religious Studies Year 1: Including AS by [John Frye](#)
- My Revision Notes AQA A-level Religious Studies: Paper 1 Philosophy of religion and ethics Sheila Butler
- Specification: AQA A level Religious Studies 7062 (2016 onwards)
- The Puzzle of God* by Peter Vardy
- The God Delusion * by Richard Dawkins

