

Religious Studies

A Level Specification:
AQA 7062

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What will I study?

Year 1

Religious Studies is divided into three components: Philosophy, Ethics and Theology. Philosophy is the study of big questions. In the first year you study arguments for God; evil and religious experience. Ethics is looking at right and wrong. You will study ethical theories and then apply them to real world scenarios such as euthanasia, embryo research and the use of animals. Theology is the study of religion. Through this you will study authority in religion, death and the afterlife and God.

Year 2

In Year 13 you further develop your understanding of the three areas and engage in a discussion between religion and philosophy – known as ‘dialogues’. In Philosophy you consider language, the concept of self and the afterlife. In Ethics you look at the conscience, free will and consider the idea that there is such thing as ‘right’ or ‘wrong’. In Theology you look at gender and sexuality, the challenge of science for religion and religious identity.

How will I be assessed?

There are two papers; papers 1 (Philosophy and Ethics) and 2 (Religion and Dialogues) are in two sections. Paper 1 – students answer four questions on Philosophy and four questions on Ethics. Paper 2 – students answer four questions on Religion and then answer two questions on the Dialogue Between Religion and Philosophy from a choice of four.

How will I Learn?

By gaining an understanding of the works and ideas of key thinkers and their works on philosophy, ethics and religion – there is plenty of application to real life scenarios and reflection on your own thoughts. You are encouraged to engage in wider reading, there are numerous books and articles available to you through school. Through discussion and debate you will explore ideas and be encouraged to reflect and challenge your own understanding. You will develop the ‘Philosopher’s Toolkit’ using skills of critical reasoning, logic and empathy.

What skills will I need?

As the course is assessed through exams your written communication is key. It is important that you can construct answers that show a progression of thought and demonstrate reasons for your conclusions (this is a skill we will help you develop over the two years!). Most importantly is a desire to look at big questions that might not have an answer, engagement in discussions with a willingness to consider other points of view and an enthusiasm for considering the metaphysical.

Careers and Progression

Religious Studies A-level is well received by universities; the Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A-level provides ‘suitable preparation for University generally’. Both Cambridge and Oxford have it in their top list of A-level qualifications. Although it doesn’t lead specifically into a job it does help you develop the skills that are valued by employers such as analysis, evaluation, communication and empathy – employers recognise A-level RS as a valuable qualification.



A truly **comprehensive** Sixth Form with **success** and **opportunity** for all

