



PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

QUALIFICATION: A Level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Examination Board: OCR

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students who take this course are expected to use an enquiring, analytical and empathetic approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics.

GCSE Religious Studies/Philosophy and Ethics is not a prerequisite for this course but you do need to have achieved a grade 5 in English.

What will I learn on this A Level course?

The course is split into 3 areas.

Component 01: Philosophy of religion

Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

Ancient philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body, Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, The nature and impact of religious experience, The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil Ideas about the nature of God, Issues in religious language.

Component 02: Religion and ethics

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

Normative ethical theories, the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance, Ethical language and thought, Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience, Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Component 03: Developments in religious thought

Buddhism; Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world, Sources of religious wisdom and authority, Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition, Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought, Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will be of particular interest to students who are interested in investigating not only what humans believe but why they hold those beliefs and the impact this may have on society. Students who enjoy critical thinking, analysing a variety of views and evaluating the validity of their own ideas will also enjoy what A Level Religious Studies has to offer.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

At the end of the two year course you will sit 3 exam papers, all of which consist of essay style questions.

Each exam is 2 hours long and worth 33.3% of the overall grade.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and employers as it proves that you are able to think, discuss and evaluate. It is an excellent preparation for any humanities degree.

It particularly prepares students for the following careers:

- Legal and medical services
- Journalism and publishing
- Education and social work
- Broadcast, film, video and media sector
- Politics