

Philosophy & Ethics

A Level



What will I learn?

The course is split into 3 components; namely the Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and lastly Developments in Religious thought. In Philosophy of Religion students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief such as ancient philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body and arguments about the existence or non-existence of God. In R&E students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application, including ethical language and thought, debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience, Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs. Lastly students will study Buddhism for component 3. This covers Buddhist Religious beliefs, values and teachings, sources of religious wisdom and authority, and practices which shape and express religious identity.

How will I learn?

Students will continue to learn using strategies developed at GCSE. Lessons will rely on a lot of discussion, so it is important you prepare well and come ready to share your opinions. Text books, presentations, group tasks, social media, videos and film might all play a part in the delivery of content. Use of religious texts, eminent publications and the work of key philosophers will also be to the fore. Regular homework and independent study will support your learning and will allow you to investigate themes and topics that interest you in more depth.

How will I be assessed?

This course is offered by the OCR exam board and is entitled A Level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics). 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. During the course you will be assessed regularly through homework tasks, discussion activities, exam style responses and project work. Regular feedback will be given so you know what you are doing well and how to improve areas that need development.

FAQs.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

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. 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.

Exam Board

OCR

Skills Gained

Debating
Analysing
Critical thinking
Evaluation
Team work
Independent study

Careers

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