

# A Level RS: Philosophy and Ethics



## ➤ Introduction

The course offers a choice of different religions, at EGS we focus on Christianity.

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

Religious studies is a thought provoking subject covering the themes of the arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, religious experiences, normative and applied ethical theories, the bible, the trinity, self/death/afterlife, social and individual conduct and expressions of identity.

## ➤ What will I learn?

Existence of God: Design - Paley's analogical argument. Criticisms: Hume. Ontological - Anselm's a priori argument. Criticisms: Gaunilo and Kant. Cosmological - Aquinas' Way 3. The argument from contingency and necessity. Criticisms: Hume and Russell. The problem of evil and suffering. The concepts of natural and moral evil. The logical and evidential problem of evil. Responses to the problem of evil and suffering. Hick's soul making theodicy. The free will defence. Process theodicy as presented by Griffin. The strengths and weaknesses of each response. The nature of religious experience. Visions: corporeal, imaginative and intellectual.

The challenges of verifying religious experiences. The challenges to religious experience from science. Religious responses to those challenges. Swinburne's principles of credulity and testimony. The issue of whether religious language should be viewed cognitively or non-cognitively. The challenges of the verification and falsification principles to the meaningfulness of religious language. Responses to these challenges: eschatological verification with reference to Hick. Language as an expression of a Blik with reference to R.M.Hare.

The strengths and weaknesses of the differing understandings of religious language. As well as miracles, death, afterlife, normative and applied ethical theory, dialogues with Christianity, situation, virtue and meta ethics, free-will and conscience.

## ➤ How will I be assessed?

Component	Type	Duration	Weight
Philosophy of Religion and Ethics (7062)	Exam	3hrs	50%
Study of Christianity and Dialogues (7062B)	Exam	3hrs	50%

Key Information:

All components are externally assessed – no coursework.

Assessment includes a mix of:

- AO1 – Knowledge and understanding
- AO2 – Critical analysis and evaluation
- Candidates will study Christianity – the life of Jesus (man of history and Christ of faith, the Holy Bible, the development of the Church and denominations)

## ➤ Opportunities

We offer a variety of learning experiences including trips and debates. A local church group offer weekly lessons, discussions and debates. We look at churches and cathedrals, Christian relics, art and architecture. We have guest speakers visits; experts in their fields.

## ➤ Other subjects?

Many students find Religious Studies (Philosophy of religion and ethics) is complementary to History, English Literature, Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Art. It is largely metaphysics; contrasted well with the sciences

## ➤ Future Careers

Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics) is highly regarded by both universities and employers. History, politics, anthropology, law, education, criminology, social work, the charity sector and ministry are just some of the courses this unique subject could lead you.

## ➤ Course Information

Course Code - 7062

Examination Board - AQA