



## **Religious Studies Curriculum Information - A Level**

As students embark on their RS A Level, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### **In Key Stage 5 RS:**

The examination board for A Level RS is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification [here](#).

The course has 3 components; Philosophy and Ethics, Christianity and Dialogues.

Philosophy and Ethics covers key philosophical ideas such as the arguments for God's existence, Religious Experience, Religious Language, Self, Death and the Afterlife and some of the core ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Moral Law and how they can be applied to a number of ethical scenarios on top of the ideas of free will and what this means for moral responsibility, conscience and a few more.

The study of Christianity in Year 1 concentrates on foundational beliefs and practices - nature of God, sources of wisdom and authority, self, death and the afterlife and key moral principles. In year 2 this knowledge is used to consider more challenging ideas such as religion and science, gender and sexuality, pluralism, secularisation and migration.

The Dialogues component does not require much new content to be taught, as it is designed to look at how Christianity has been in dialogue with Philosophy and Ethics over the centuries, considering how it has both been influenced by and has influenced Philosophy and Ethics.

The final assessment for the course is two 3 hour exams; Paper 1 is Philosophy and Ethics, Paper 2 is Christianity and Dialogues. In these papers students need to answer four 2 part essay questions on each paper.

### **Textbooks and resources:**

Students are provided with 2 textbooks, 1 each year which covers all the course content. They are big textbooks and we have some available in the classroom so students do not need to bring them to every lesson.

Students can either write on file paper and keep their notes in a folder or they can have exercise books that we can provide.

### **Useful websites**

[Philosophy Dungeon](#)

[Unbelievable podcasts](#)

### **Career Links**

[Why study Religious Studies](#)

[Careers for RS graduates](#)

**Homework and assessment:**

Homework will be set regularly in order to help students to consolidate their learning and understanding or prepare for upcoming lessons. Sometimes this will be written work, other times it might be pre-reading ready for the next lesson. Students are expected and encouraged to read around the subject, going beyond the textbook to expand and deepen their understanding.

Exam questions are regularly set to assess student progress; these should always be handwritten and normally timed.

**Revision:**

Revision should be a continuous process rather than left till exam seasons. We would encourage students to review their work after every lesson and to return to their notes regularly to improve retrieval of the information.

**Co-curricular RS:**

There is a weekly Philosophy Club which students are welcome to attend and can even be involved in the running of this.

We also host the Aylesbury Vale Socratic Society; a monthly series of talks and debates on a range of philosophical and ethical topics.

More information can be found on the [RS subject page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Katharine Knight, Head of RS, at [kknight@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:kknight@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)