



---

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, RELIGION & ETHICS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

### Course Information

This qualification has been designed to provide a coherent, thought-provoking and rigorous programme of study which prepares students for progression to Higher Education. It is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas. It aims to engage students thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

It will encourage students to:

- Develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world.
- Develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies.
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

### Content overview

#### Philosophy of Religion

- 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 about the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language

#### Religion and Ethics

- normative ethical theories
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- ethical language and thought
- debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience
- the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

#### Developments in Religious Thought (Christianity)

- 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

### Entry Requirements

A GCSE in RE is desirable, but not essential.



---

---

**Career Pathway**

Study in this subject will offer an authentic insight, a relevant curriculum for today and skills for the future that will prepare them for higher education or the world of work. Many big businesses are enthusiastic about people who have done this subject because they know how to think clearly. Law, politics, the civil service, journalism and of course, teaching are other possible career choices.

**Student Destinations**

Many universities offer Philosophy as a degree subject or, as explained above, an A Level in the subject will open doors to many other subject areas. The Russell group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'.

Should you like to receive any additional information on this course please contact Miss C Dufour – Head of Department