



Religious Studies: Philosophy of religion and ethics and Study of religion and dialogues

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

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death

Ethics and religion

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant

Christianity

- Sources of wisdom and authority: The Bible; The Church and The authority of Jesus
- God: Monotheism; God as Personal, God as Father and God as Love; The concept of God in process theology
- Self, death and afterlife: The meaning and purpose of life; Resurrection and Different interpretations of judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory
- Good conduct and key moral principles: Good conduct; Sanctity of life and Dominion and stewardship
- Expressions of religious identity: Baptism; Holy Communion and the mission of the Church
- Christianity, gender and sexuality
- Christianity and science
- Christianity and the challenge of secularisation
- Christianity, migration and religious pluralism
- The dialogue between Christianity and philosophy
- The dialogue between Christianity and ethics



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 Catherine Dufour, Head of Department.