

# A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

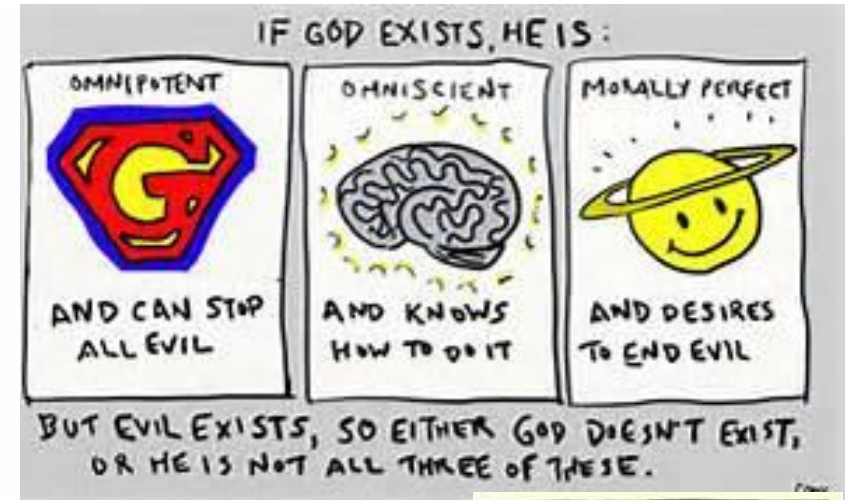
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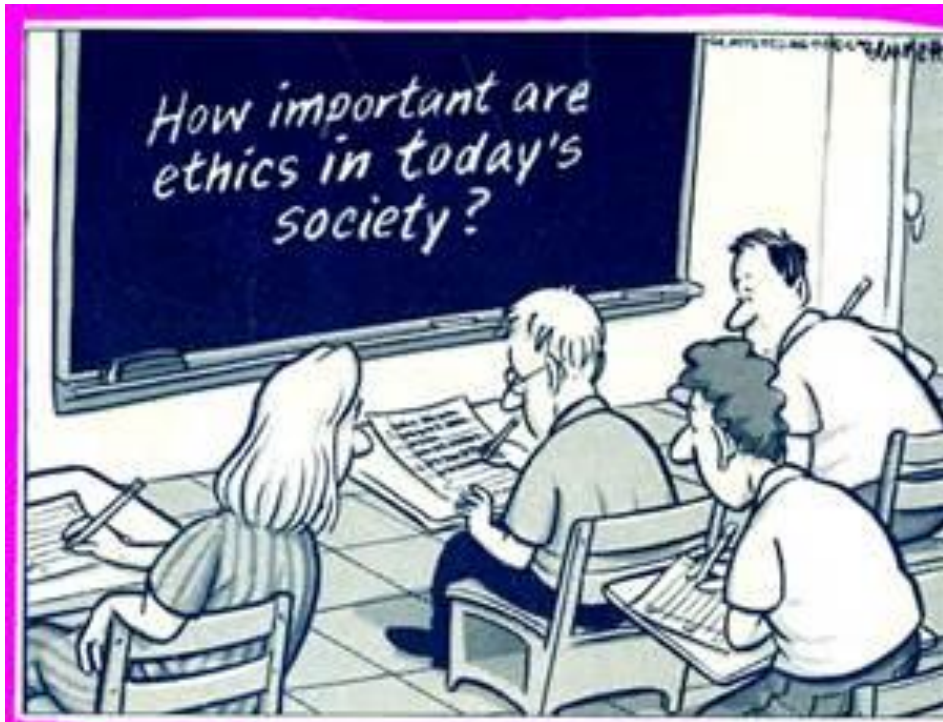
## Three questions to consider...

- How do you know you are here?
- Can you stand in the same river twice?
- Do we really know what is right from wrong?

# A Level Religious Studies- Philosophy of Religion



# A Level Religious Studies- Ethics



# A Level Religious Studies- Buddhism

There were some pictures here, but as everything is impermanent, they aren't here any more.

# What are the aims of the course?

- Develop your academic skills 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
- Develop and 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

# What do I study?

- Philosophy of Religion : 33.3% of A Level, 120 marks, 2 hour exam paper
- 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 of the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language.

# What do I study?

- Religion and Ethics 33.3% of A Level, 120 marks, 2 hour written paper:
- normative ethical theories
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- ethical language and thought
- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.



# What do I study?

- Developments in Religious Thought, 33.3%, 120 marks, 2 hour written paper:
- Buddhist beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- sources of religious wisdom and authority within Buddhism
- practices which shape and express Buddhist identity, and how these vary within Buddhist traditions
- significant social and historical developments in Buddhist beliefs and thought
- key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of Buddhism

# How is the Course Assessed?

- **Three exams at the end of Year 13.**
- **All worth 33.3% of the overall A Level**
- **All 2 hours in length**
- **All worth 120 marks**
- **You choose 3 out of 4 questions to answer on.**

# Where can an A Level in RS take me?

- Transferrable skills:
- RS is highly regarded by employers and universities due to the transferrable skills. Key skills you will use include:
- Independent work,
- analysis of different perspectives,
- empathy with different perspectives and different beliefs,
- use of logic and reason
- encourages you to think and challenges your assumptions about the world

# Where can an A Level in RS take me?

- Possible careers:
- Students who have studied RS in the past have gone on to study and work in the following areas:
- Philosophy (including Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
- Law
- Medicine
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Sociology
- Politics

# What do I need to get to take the course?

- Standard Sixth Form entry requirements
- Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies would be an advantage but you do not have to have studied GCSE Religious Studies to get onto the course.

For further information, please contact Miss Lavender or Mr Noyce.

# Religious Studies

## Course Outline: A Level (OCR)

Religious studies is an interesting and challenging course that covers the areas of Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. Topics include: the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, the study of ethical theories, medical ethics, key Buddhist beliefs and teachings, religious expression and the role religion plays in society.

There is no course work and all three exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

### Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 2 hours. 33% of the qualification.

### Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 2 hours. 33% of the qualification.

### Paper 3: Developments in religious thought (Buddhism)

Written examination: 2 hours. 33% of the qualification.

### Student perspective

*"Now that I am at university I can really appreciate what a great course RS A level is. Not only did it provide me with important skills for my degree, it fundamentally changed the way I think about things. How many A levels can say that?"*

Reminders of the key information can be found in the prospectus...

### Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is an interesting subject that explores a variety of philosophical and ethical theories and dilemmas as well as providing insight into new religious ideas.

The topics studied are relevant to the world today and encourage critical analysis and reasoning. Students will gain experience of studying complex texts and information as well as essay writing skills, both of which provide excellent preparation for further education. Students are encouraged to think for themselves and learn how to support their own views, arguments and opinions.

### Where does it lead?

Religious studies helps students to understand different arguments and viewpoints and is highly regarded by many universities and employers. Further studies and careers may include: philosophy, religious studies, law, medicine, journalism, teaching, sociology, psychology, politics, etc.

Any questions?