

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Examination Board: OCR

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies focuses on the study of Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Thought (Buddhism), in equal measure. The course enables you to debate and analyse some of the big questions humanity has been asking for millennia. Additionally, the course offers you the opportunity to question philosophical, ethical and religious theories and question their validity and impact on society both in the past and present. You will be encouraged to challenge your views and beliefs and question those of others, enabling an understanding of the diversity of belief in this ever-developing world.

Religious Studies is highly regarded by employers and universities due to the rigour of academic study and transferable skills, for example critical thinking. Other invaluable skills you will focus on are analysis and evaluation of different perspectives and theories, use of logic and reason, independent study and opportunities to think and challenge your assumptions about the world.

Where does it lead?

Students who have taken RS A Level have gone on to study and work in the following areas: Philosophy (including Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Law, Medicine, Journalism, Teaching, the Caring Professions, the Police Force, the Armed Forces and others have studied it out of interest in the universal nature of the three disciplines.

Course Content

Religious Studies covers:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethical Theories
- Developments in Buddhist thought

Topics studied include:

- The existence of God
- The problem of evil and suffering
- Ethical theories
- Medical ethics
- Business ethics
- Key Buddhist beliefs and teachings
- Religious expression and the role religion plays in today's society

Course Assessment

There are three exams at the end of the A Level course, all two hours long and each worth one third of the final grade.

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Paper 3: Development in religious thought (Buddhism)

**For further information,
please contact Miss Singer**

