

Religious Studies

A Level

Head of Department: Mr S Bhayani

Exam Board:

OCR Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics + World Faith)



What is the course about?

The course covers Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and the study of a World Religion. Students are encouraged to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to their study. The new specification enables the development of essay writing skills necessary for entry to Higher Education. The A-Level field trips to Candle Conferences in London and a trip to India should hopefully be the highlights of your course.

What will I study in the first year?

The first year of the course you will study traditional and modern philosophical theories that question the nature of how people perceive their world. In Philosophy, you will question the arguments for the existence of God and explore how the Ancient Greeks and the Judeo-Christian tradition had influenced philosophical thought. In Ethics, you will study ethical theories that have influenced the decisions of governments and you will apply the theories to Business Ethics and Euthanasia. The study of a World Religion includes either Buddhism or Hinduism where you will study origins, core concepts and beliefs.

What will I study in the second year?

In the second year, you further advance your studies in Philosophy, Ethics and a World Religion. During your Philosophy studies, you will explore the challenge for religious belief due to the problem of evil, the nature of God, and the issues in religious language. In Ethics, you will debate the issues around a conscience, explore sexual ethics and consider the influence of ethical thoughts in the development of religion. While studying world religion, you will look at ethics and sources of the religion.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam based which is written in the second year, the 3 exams each weighted at 33%.

What skills will I develop in this course?

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies A level provides 'suitable preparation for University...'

By the end of your course, you will be able to:

- ✓ Absorb and retain complex information and identify key issues
- ✓ Sift, select relevant information and think logically
- ✓ Express ideas clearly through essay writing and discussion
- ✓ Develop a critical approach to contemporary issues
- ✓ Develop a disciplined approach to problem solving
- ✓ Develop investigative, analytical and critical evaluation skills
- ✓ Understand and take a sensitive approach to different cultures and beliefs

What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

There are many opportunities that the course opens as it is fairly universal. It is particularly, akin but not exclusive to students that aspire in the following careers: advice worker, archivist, charity officer, civil service, law, newspaper journalist, social & youth work, medical & scientific field and business.