



A Level Religious Studies

AQA

Curriculum Leader: Ms Colley

Course Overview:

Religious Studies is a diversified and multi-faceted discipline focusing on the study of specific traditions and the general nature of religion as a human phenomenon. It spans cultures around the world, ancient as well as modern. It also combines a variety of methodologies – including but not limited to textual, historical, literary, social scientific, philosophical, and art-historical approaches.

At A level, students study Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity. It provides a solid basis for further study especially for students who are interested in the Classics. Religious Studies is valued by universities and is especially applicable to public facing roles including medicine, social care and teaching.

Component 1: Philosophy and ethics – 50% of the qualification

Section A – Philosophy of religion

Arguments for the existence of God

Evil and suffering

Religious experiences

Religious language

Miracles

Self and life after death

Section B – 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

Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues – 50% of the qualification

Section A – Study of religion – the following topics are covered:

Sources of wisdom and authority

God/gods/ultimate reality

Self, death and the afterlife

Good conduct and key moral principles

Expression of religious identity

Religion, gender and sexuality

Religion and science

Religion and secularisation

Religion and religious pluralism.

Section B – The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C – The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

Progression Opportunities:

Taking A-level Religious Studies will allow you the time to think, in an academic context, about religion – regardless of your personal religious inclinations. It will do this by developing both your knowledge and understanding of religion(s) and, especially, how religion interacts with our modern world. A-level Religious Studies will also help you to develop your skills in critically analysing and reflecting on both personal and world values and opinions.