

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Course Type	AS and A2
Exam Board	OCR
Pre-requisite qualifications	Preferable English Grade B or above with GCSE RE grade B or above.

Course Overview

A Level Religious Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to study and students gain critical skills in history, sociology, philosophy, ethics and theology. Students not only learn the substance of religion in various cultures, but also study ethical and philosophical theories and concepts. We explore the link between religion and contemporary culture, evidence of which is all around us, from advertising hair straighteners to the collapse of the Twin Towers. Students are taught in small groups to facilitate discussion and acquire investigative skills. Ethical theories are explored through philosophical debate.

Topics Covered

- ◆ Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion (Plato)
- ◆ Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion
- ◆ Traditional arguments for the existence of God
- ◆ Challenges to religious belief
- ◆ Ethical theories
- ◆ Applied ethics topics (abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering)

Level	Component	Weighting
AS	Ethics	50%
	Philosophy	50%

Suggested Career Paths

- ◆ Law
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Civil Service

- ◆ Politics

Skills Developed

- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Oral and written communication skills
- ◆ Acquisition of technical and critical vocabulary