

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics A Level

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is all about questions. We attempt to tackle some of the hardest; most important and most interesting questions that a human being can face:- 'Can we prove that God does not exist?'; 'What makes a good person?'; 'Why would a loving god allow the Holocaust and Tsunami to happen?'; 'Can you accept the Big Bang theory and believe in God?'; 'Does everyone have the right to life?' and 'Can the taking of an innocent life ever be justified?' We will examine these questions from a personal and academic perspective and the best thing is that your point of view will always count!

Where your course can lead to

Students who succeed in this course will develop many significant and marketable skills including the ability to analyse and critically examine difficult concepts. They will also be able to express their own ideas clearly and effectively verbally and in written form. The course is recognised as a highly academic subject which is excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses and careers including law; education; medicine; social work; the media; management and both the emergency services and armed forces.

Skills required to succeed on course:

Students will need to have an ability to read and think independently. You will be expected to read books and journals; get involved in debates; put forward your own opinion; take part in group and individual research tasks and at times, even lead the lessons yourself by giving presentations. You will be expected to write essays regularly as this is how you will be assessed in the examinations. These essays are based on two clear assessment objectives.

Support and guidance given throughout course

After each unit of work students will complete at least one essay and as a result will be given detailed feedback on how to improve. You will be taught using a variety of methods and learning will not always be based in the classroom. The RS department has an open door policy for A Level students and will arrange a suitable time to support you with any homework or revision if you feel you need extra help.

Overview of the course - what can students expect:

Component 1

Philosophy; Religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language; Arguments for the existence of God.

Component 2

Ethics; evaluates a wide range of ethical systems that define good behaviour by applying a variety of issues including: Abortion, Euthanasia, Capital Punishment, Homosexuality and War.

Component 3

Christianity; an in-depth study into the beliefs and practices of Christianity.

How you will be assessed

You will be assessed regularly by your teacher. These teacher assessments tend to take the form of timed essays, student led presentations and group work. You will be assessed formally by three, two hour exams at the end of the A Level course. No coursework.

Entry Requirements

- Level 5 or above in English
- Level 5 in a Humanities subject is preferred
- 5 GCSEs at Level 5 or above

