



# A Level Religious Studies

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**Exam Board:** Eduqas

## Overview of the course:

*"The unexamined life is not worth living"* Socrates

Do you enjoy discussion and debate?

Do you like to think about questions such as:

- Are any civilians truly innocent in war?
- Is there any purpose to suffering?
- What do we really mean when we say something is 'good'?
- Can we be sure about anything?

Would you like to learn about some of the greatest thinkers that have ever existed and their ideas?

Would you like to challenge yourself intellectually?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then Religious Studies is for you!

## What will you study?

### First Year Course Content

The course will focus on three components:

- An introduction into Christianity with a focus on: Religious figures and sacred texts (Jesus' life), religious concepts (nature of God), Religious life, religious practices that shape religion and belief.
- An introduction to philosophy of religion: Inductive arguments for the existence of God (Cosmological, Teleological), deductive arguments for the existence of God (ontological), the problem of evil and suffering, religious experience,.
- An introduction to Religion and Ethics: Ethical thought (Divine command theory, virtue, egoism), Natural Law, Situation ethics, Utilitarianism.
- Practical ethics: Homosexuality, polyamorous relationships, war, animal experimentation, abortion, euthanasia.

### Second Year Course Content

The course focuses on three components:

- The Study of Christianity: Religious figures and sacred texts, significant social and historical developments in religious thought, religious practices that shape religious identity.
- Philosophy of religions; Arguments for the existence of God, Challenges to religious belief, religious experience, religious language.
- Religious Ethics; Ethical language, free will and determinism, modern interpretations of natural law, practical ethics, immigration and capital punishment.

### Key Skills

Doing A Level Religious Studies allows you to develop the following Key Skills to the highest level.

- Communication
- ICT
- Working with others
- Problem solving
- Improving your own learning and performance

### Assessment

As this is a linear course, content from across the two years of study will be examined at the end of the second year.

- Paper 1 = two hours Christianity
- Paper 2 = two hours → Philosophy of Religion
- Paper 3 = two hours → Religious ethics

### Possible career path?

Philosophy is one of the fastest growing degree courses. It gives you a good grounding in logic and argument and is relevant to the deep study of almost every other subject.

Why would employers in business, management, public administration, and such professions as Journalism, the Health Service, Criminal Justice and Law value philosophy? The answer is that such professions increasingly have a need for candidates who are able to look at issues from a variety of viewpoints and who have the ability to think questions through, on the basis of sound reasoning and solid evidence.

The Russell group universities also view Religious Studies as a valuable subject to have studies at A Level.

### Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Mathematics **and** a Grade 6 in Religious Studies **and** English.