



# A Level Religious Studies

**Key contact:**

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**Exam Board:**

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## 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?

The course will focus on three components:

### Component 1: Christianity

A study of Christianity with a focus on: religious figures, sacred texts (Jesus' life), religious concepts (nature of God), Religious life, religious practice that shape religion, belief and identity, significant social and historical developments of religious thought.

### Component 2: Religious Ethics

Ethical thought (Divine Command theory, virtue egoism), Deontological ethics (Natural Law and modern adaptations of Natural Law applied to practical ethics immigration and capital punishment), Teleological ethics (Situation ethics and Utilitarianism applied to practical ethics - homosexuality and polyamorous relationships, war, animal experimentation, abortion and euthanasia) Ethical Language, free will and determinism.

### Component 3: Philosophy of Religion

Inductive arguments for the existence of God (Cosmological/teleological arguments), deductive arguments for the existence of God (ontological), the problem of evil, challenges to religious belief (new atheism), religious experience and religious language.

## 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 English.