

What is Religious Studies?

A Level in Religious Studies provides a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study. Students develop their understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and the philosophy of religion.

Why students choose this course

Students often choose to study Religious Studies A Level because they have enjoyed and been successful at Religious Studies GCSE. To do well in this A level you will need to have an interest in the world we live in today and how it has changed and continues to change in terms of beliefs, ideas and practices.

Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. Religious Studies students typically relish expressing their ideas both verbally and in writing.

The A level is essay based and students who study Religious Studies ideally are strong writers who enjoy forming arguments and have been successful at English GCSE.

What the course covers

You will study 3 units in Eduqas A Level Religious Studies:

Philosophy of Religion

- The existence/non-existence of God
- The nature and influence of religious experience, and the problems of evil and suffering
- Religious beliefs about the nature of God
- Religious language: how religious language has changed over time?
- Psychology of religion

Religion & Ethics:

- Normative ethical theories: religious approaches to ethical decision-making
- Normative ethical theories: deontological and teleological
- Application of ethical theories to modern issues like abortion and euthanasia
- Meta-ethics
- Free will and determinism

Study of Religion: Islam

- Beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life, the world & ultimate reality
- The origins and development of Islam
- The diversity of ethics and practice
- Significant social and historical developments in Islamic thought
- The relationship between religion and society
- Challenges facing religious thought

Further information can be found on the examination board's website:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/>

What students can do with this course

A Level Religious Studies can assist entry to a diverse range of university courses, such as English Literature, History, Psychology and Law. Prospective medical and Bio-Science students find the study of ethics very useful and budding lawyers enjoy the chance to develop their skills in presenting arguments.

The wide-ranging skills and knowledge the course provides allows students to move on to a host of further studies and career paths. Areas of work that some students have gone into in the past are law, teaching, journalism, policing and social work.

How this course is assessed

All 3 units are examinations and are completed at the end of Year 2:

Paper 1 - Philosophy of religion- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 2 - Religion and ethics- 2 hours, 33.3%

Paper 3 – Study of Religion – Islam - 2 hours, 33.3%

Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website

Further Reading

An Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics
(Access for Students) Mel Thompson

Student Profile:



Before Sixth Form, Sabah was a student at Dixons McMillan. At Dixons Sixth Form, she studies A levels in Religious Studies, Sociology and Psychology.

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I chose Religious Studies because I wanted to find out how this world has changed and continues to change in terms of beliefs and ideas. I also wanted the chance to improve my skills in debating and presenting arguments.

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