

Religious Studies

A Level

AQA Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (A2)
Head of Social Sciences Department – Katie Harrington

You should do this course if.....

You have a genuine interest in religious, philosophical and scientific issues and a desire to debate maturely such issues with others in a group context. You should also do this course if you can demonstrate tolerance towards, and an interest in, other people's beliefs and ideas.

Students choosing this course must also be prepared to learn to write clearly and concisely and be prepared to listen without prejudice to the full range of religious, philosophical and secular ideas in the different topics we study.

Students will also need to be prepared to do plenty of background reading and note-taking outside of formal lessons as an essential part of the course.

Skills you will develop on this course

This course will not only give you a depth of knowledge about the subject content but also it will give and develop skills in the following:

- Clear & Logical thinking
- Critical evaluation
- Literacy & Expression
- Negotiating
- Organising
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Research

Topics studied

UNIT 1 - (AS)

Introduction to Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion

Students are introduced to the different ideas about the existence and belief in God as expressed in philosophy, religion, psychology and by today's post-modern world.

UNIT 2 - (AS)

Introduction to Religious Studies: Religion, Philosophy and Science

This unit examines the religious, philosophical and scientific viewpoints on the phenomena of miracles and the origins of the universe.

UNIT 3 – (A2)

Studies in Religion: Philosophy of Religion

This unit extends students' understanding in the area philosophy of religion by examining such topics as reason and faith, the problem of using religious language, the nature and existence of soul and body, and the problem of evil.

UNIT 4 – (A2)

Religion & Human Experience: Life, Death and Beyond

This unit explores the religious and secular teachings about life after death and the end of the world and how such teaching may affect present existence.

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How will you learn?

Highlighting handouts; taking notes from presentations, textbooks, video or dictation; group research and presentations; using pasts A level stimulus-response and essay questions; library and internet research; discussion; written activities, reading and taking notes from reading lists.

Where does the course lead?

Religious Studies can lead to Higher Education studies in Theology, Religious Studies or Philosophy. The skills and knowledge acquired at AS and A2 also equip students who wish to study Law, Politics, History, English and related subjects.

Graduates in Religious Studies and Theology etc have moved on into a variety of fields where the unique type of study undertaken in these fields have given them skills in critical thinking, subtle analysis, and skilled articulation. Graduates have obtained positions in education, business, social work, law, journalism, the arts, politics, travel, the armed forces and law enforcement, and administration of non-profit organizations.

Assessment and Exams.

Unit 1

AS Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes. Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of four.

Unit 2

AS Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes. Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of four.

Unit 3

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of four.

Unit 4

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of four.

Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE including a grade C or above in English Language.