

Religious Studies - Edexcel

Students will engage with arguments and debates on religious and non-religious views of life, which focus on some key areas of controversy that shape modern views of the world, such as the problem of evil and suffering. Students will study issues and practical problems such as equality, war and peace and sexual ethics. These issues and problems will provide a sufficient balance of breadth and depth for students to acquire the skills they need to address a wide range of contemporary moral dilemmas and to progress to further study.

Two year linear course with written exams that will assess your understanding of the following topics:

Course Content

Paper 1 - Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical issues and questions
- The nature and influence of religious experience
- Problems of evil and suffering

Paper 2 - Religion and Ethics

- Ethical theories i.e. Utilitarianism/Natural Law/Situation Ethics
- Environmental and equality issues
- War & peace and sexual ethics

Paper 3 - Study of Religion: Christianity

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Practices that shape and express religious identity

Assessment Pattern

Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Study of Religion: Christianity

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Lesson Structure

A variety of learning activities are used including teacher led discussions, the use of video and Internet research and essay writing practice. Much responsibility lies with students with a heavy emphasis on discussions, debates and individual presentations.

Extra Information

This subject would suit those who would like to fine tune their reasoning skills and develop the ability to form judgements based on clear evaluation of information. Students would develop a range of transferable skills e.g. the ability to put your point of view across clearly. Courses involving the study of philosophy and ethics are highly regarded by universities and are a popular choice for study beyond sixth form, for example when combined with politics and economics (PPE). It is further seen as a useful stepping stone into career paths such as law, politics, journalism etc.