

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS COURSE DURATION: 2 YEARS

This A-level provides students with the opportunity to study religions and to gain an understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints. Throughout the course, students will develop and understanding and appreciation of religious belief, philosophical and ethical thought and its contribution to individuals and societies.

COURSE CONTENT

This A-level has three components, the study of a religion, philosophy of religion and ethics. As part of the ethics paper, students will learn about Aquinas' Natural Law, Fletcher's Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism. Philosophy of religion includes the different arguments for the existence of God and the problem of evil. The chosen religion is Christianity which has four distinct themes: religious figures, religious concepts, religious life and religious practices.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

The aim of this course is to encourage students to reflect on, select and apply specified knowledge of religion and philosophical thought. Students will develop skills which will allow them to interpret and critically evaluate religious concepts and construct well-informed and reasoned ethical arguments for a range of controversial issues which society faces in the modern world.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed through three separate examinations, each lasting two hours. All questions are essay-based, 'part a' questions which assess knowledge and understanding are allocated 20 marks and 'part b' questions which assess analysis and evaluation are allocated 30 marks. Consequently, the focus is on the ability to successfully analyse and evaluate topics from the specification.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

An A-level in Religious Studies enables students to develop a range of broad transferable skills and so will be beneficial to variety of academic pathways. The subject works well with English, Sociology, History, Psychology and many more.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

There is a wide range of higher education courses available including: Philosophy, Ethics and Religion; Religion, Culture and Ethics; History, Theology and Ethics; Law and Ethics; Social work, Ethics and Religion and Religion with Education Studies.