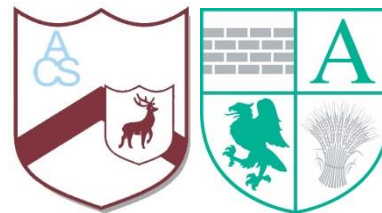


A Level Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)



Type of qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Aim of Course:

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- Develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

The course provides a relevant and challenging context for exploring the particular beliefs, values and practices that characterise religious communities. In turn, the paper provides a sound basis for understanding and reflecting on the contemporary influence of religion, the views of those who do not share a religious belief and the impact of these factors on people's lives. 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 extend their understanding through engagement in debates on issues such as the value of evidence based on accounts of religious experience. They will analyse and evaluate particular viewpoints of thinkers who have contributed to these debates.

There are several avenues of further education open to students with an A Level in RS from law, journalism, politics, teaching, psychology and other social sciences. If you like asking questions of the answers, then this course is for you.

Course Content and Mode of Assessment:

The Level 3 Advanced GCE in Religious Studies consists of three externally-examined papers.

Written examination: each paper is two hours and equates to a third of the final A Level.

- ✓ **Philosophical issues and questions:** The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief.
- ✓ **Religion and Ethics:** Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.
- ✓ **Study of Religion:** Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity; Social and historical developments; Works of scholars; Religion and society; Primary texts.