

Religious Studies:

Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Religion?

This course gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about life: why are we here, how should we behave and what happens when we die?

It develops the student's ability to ask key questions and evaluate different responses to them, whilst acknowledging that adequate answers are not always easy to come by. Students are required to analyse arguments critically and the skills developed provide an excellent accompaniment to Psychology, English, History and many other subjects. It is also a useful complement to science subjects, particularly for those wishing to follow a career in medicine.

Studying this subject is important because it deals with issues affecting every single human being and, as such, should be regarded as a lesson in life rather than simply as an academic course. This subject can be beneficial to those going on to study Medicine and Law as well as numerous other university courses.

Entry Requirements

It is not essential to have studied Religious Studies or Religious Education at GCSE but, if you have, then a minimum Grade B is desirable. You will not, however, be at a disadvantage if you have not studied this subject before and the course is open to people of any religious belief, or none. You do not have to be religious in order to succeed at or be engaged in this subject.

Subject Specification

AS level

Component 1: Philosophy and religion - Christianity and the philosophy of religion

Section A: Study of religion: Christianity. Content includes God/Gods/ultimate reality, life after death, sources of wisdom and authority.

Section B: Philosophy of religion. Content includes arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering, religious experience.

Assessment is by a written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of AS.

Component 2: Ethics, religion and society.

Section A: Study of religion – this must be the same religion studied for Component 1. Content includes key moral principles, religious identity.

Section B: Ethics and religion. Content includes ethical theories, issues of human life and death, issues of animal life and death.

Assessment is by a written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of AS



A-level

Component 1: Philosophy and religion - Christianity and the philosophy of religion

Section A: Study of religion – Christianity. Content includes God/Gods/Ultimate Reality, life after death, the challenge from science, the nature and role of religion, sources of wisdom and authority.

Section B: Philosophy of religion. Content includes arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering, religious experience, religious language, miracles, self and life after death, the nature and function of religion.

Section C: The dialogue between philosophy and religion. Content includes how religion is influenced by, and influences, philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Assessment is by a written exam: 3 hours, 100 marks, 50% of A-level.

Component 2: Ethics, Religion and Society

Section A: Study of religion. Content includes key moral principles, religious identity, religion and sexual identity, religious pluralism.

Section B: Ethics and religion. Content includes ethical theories, issues of human life and death, issues of animal life and death, introduction to meta-ethics, free will and moral responsibility, conscience, Bentham and Kant.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion. Content includes how religion is influenced by, and influences, ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

Assessment is by a written exam: 3 hours, 100 marks, 50% of A-level.

Further Information

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Rev. A Cranston, Head of Religious Studies (adc@oswestryschool.org.uk).

