

A Level Religious Studies



Why this subject?

Religious studies A Level provides an excellent foundation for a range of careers from medicine to public service to business. Imagine how better prepared a doctor or business professional is if they understand the culture, customs and thinking of the individual's they are dealing with. Any career where you will be in contact with the general public will be helped through the study of Philosophy, Ethics and Theology.

Course Outline

Philosophy – You will develop the skills of philosophy through the application to key topic areas such as:

- The existence of God
- Life after Death
- Use of language
- Evil and suffering
- Experience and knowledge
- Critiques of religion from sociological, psychological and political science perspectives.

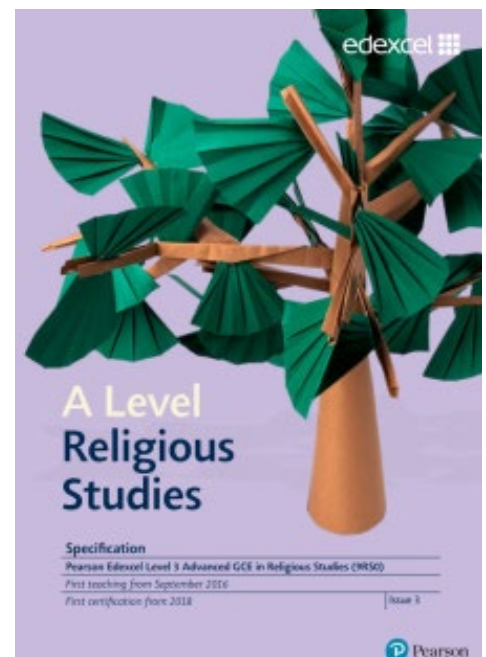
Ethics-You will develop an understanding of the way in which the individual and society decides what is to be right and wrong. This will be explored through the ethical theories of:

- Utilitarianism
- Situation Ethics
- Natural Moral Law
- Virtue Ethics
- Emotivism and intuitionism

You will also apply these theories to contemporary issues of:

- Equality
- Environmental Ethics
- War and peace
- Sexual Ethics

Theology (Buddhism)- You will gain a deeper understanding of a religion through a critical analysis of key texts and beliefs. Theology will really challenge the way you have previously thought about religion and those who hold religious beliefs. Prepare to be amazed at what you discover.



Key Information

Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Applied A Level Pathway Level 6 GCSE RS
Head of Department	Mrs Hillier

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Assessment Outline

In year 13, you will sit three external exams prepared by Edexcel. They will consist of Paper 1, 2 and 3.

Paper 1:

Philosophy of Religion

Paper 2:

Religion and Ethics

Paper 3:

Study of Religion (Buddhism)

Each paper is a written examination and consist of 80 marks. The papers are 2 hours long and represent 33.3% of the A-level.



What do our students say?

"I have really enjoyed studying Religious studies at A-level and I feel like I have really developed my understanding of some popular and important topics within Religion. In particular, I have really liked the topics surrounding life after death as well as Buddhism. It really gets you thinking"

- Year 13 Student

Careers and next steps

Many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A-level in a facilitating subject when you apply. RS is a non-facilitating subject which means it should be studied alongside subjects such as English, Maths. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Languages, History or Geography. At Oxford and Cambridge University Religious Studies is considered in its top level list of 'suitable Arts' subjects. Applicants with RS were more likely to gain admission to study history at Oxford in 2012 than those with facilitating subjects. Most universities consider RS as a rigorous academic subject and the London School of Economics see it as a preferred subject. The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A Level provides 'suitable preparation' for study at their universities. You could also study a degree in Religious Studies, Philosophy or Theology at top universities.