

KS5 Information



Multi Academy Trust

Religious Studies
A Level.



Why Religious Studies ?

Religious Studies provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.



“...the unexamined life is not worth living,... ” Socrates, as described in Plato's Apology.

Why Religious Studies ?

Religious Studies is the natural A Level choice for students who are interested in an academic approach to studying religion, its teachings and how religion influences the surrounding world. It is the perfect subject for those with an enquiring mind and an enthusiasm for those who wish to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to a specialist study of religion, philosophy and ethics.



What skills does Religious Studies develop?

Religious Studies is one of the best forms of training for decision makers. In writing essays one takes information from a wide range of sources, weighs it up and then develops and defends a point of view. The ability to recognise your own and other people's presuppositions is an invaluable tool. Religious Studies gives you an appreciation of the complexities of human nature and enables you to learn how to deal with abstract concepts and to think about some of the deeper dimensions of our existence.



"The Greatest Happiness Principle holds that actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness and wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness."

Course Overview

Section A: Philosophy of religion. Arguments for the existence of God, Evil and suffering, Religious experience, Religious language, Miracles, Self and life after death.

Section B: Ethics and religion. 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: Study of religion. Developments in Christian Thought. Sources of wisdom and authority, God/ultimate reality, Self, death and the afterlife, Good conduct and key moral principles, Expression of religious identity, Religion, gender and sexuality, Religion and science, Religion and secularisation, Religion and religious pluralism.

Section D: Dialogues.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

Assessment.

Two three-hour examination papers at the end of two year's study.

Careers and Support Subjects.

Religious Studies provides an excellent grounding in any career that requires analytical and communication skills, such as: the legal profession, the medical profession, the civil service, marketing and publishing. It will be of benefit to any careers that require high level decision making and is highly considered by universities and employers. The Russell Group of universities has made it clear that a Religious Studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally.'

The AQA course provides a very thorough grounding in Philosophy of Religion and Moral Philosophy (Ethics) as well as Religious Debates. As such, it is an excellent preparation for candidates who wish to pursue philosophical and or/theological courses at University/ tertiary level.

For A-Level choices, Religious Studies will complement many other subjects, including English, History, Psychology, Languages, Classics as well as Sciences and Maths.