

Religious Studies

Subject Leader: Mr A. McMillan

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Level

The A Level in Religious Studies focuses on three main disciplines: 'Ethics' and 'Philosophy of Religion' and a Systematic study of a world religion. Approximately a third of the teaching time is spent studying each section.

The Ethics course covers a broad range of topics, firstly looking to gain an understanding of key ethical theories, such as situation ethics and utilitarianism. This encourages students to think about where ethics come from, is there a duty to be moral? Is there a link between religion and morality? The course continues by using these ethical theories to inform studies in 'applied' ethics. This means putting the theories into practice. Topics studied in this part of the course include war and peace and sexual ethics.

The Philosophy of Religion course covers some of the key questions in Philosophy, such as Does God Exist? If God exists, why is there evil? Is it possible to describe God? Is religion a good thing? The course involves an academic study of a wide range of ideas and thinkers from the Greek Philosophers, like Plato and Aristotle, through the Church Fathers, such as Augustine and Aquinas, through to post-enlightenment philosophers, including Hume and Kant.

The Christian Theology course covers a systematic and in-depth study of Christianity to provide a foundation for understanding the key beliefs and value of the religion. This will encourage students to develop an understanding of how Christian thought has developed from the Early Church to today. Concepts that will be explored include; the nature of God as transcendent and immanent, the basis for belief in the Trinity, the variety of approaches for interpreting the Bible, social and historical developments, as well as key scholars such as Anselm, Karl Barth and John Hick.

Method of Assessment:

At the end of both years 12 and year 13 there are three written examinations.

- Unit 1 – Philosophy (2hrs) – Answering 3 questions, 33% of total exam
- Unit 2 – Ethics (2hrs) - 33% of total exam
- Unit 3 – Christian Theology (2hrs)- 33% of total exam