

Religious Studies

Qualification:

A-Level Religious Studies

Speak to **Mrs D Graves** for more information.

What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

This WJEC GCE AS and A level specification in Religious Studies will enable learners 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. GCE AS and A level Religious Studies are designed to enable learners to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a study of religion and its place in the wider world. This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE. Some learners may have already gained knowledge, understanding and skills through their study of Religious Studies at GCSE.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

The course will cover modules in Ethics, Philosophy of Religion and Hinduism. Pupils will engage in a study of the Hindu faith, this unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts, religious concepts, religious life and religious practices that shape religious identity. Ethics provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental ethical themes: ethical thought, Aquinas' Natural Law, Fletcher's Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism. Philosophy of Religion provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental philosophical themes: arguments for the existence of God – inductive, arguments for the existence of God – deductive, challenges to religious belief and religious experience. Each of these will be developed further at A2.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suited to all who have an interest in beliefs, practices, culture, people, society and the world. It is a course which requires empathy, respect and broad mindedness. This is a subject which addresses the key questions about life and death. It is for those with an interest for ethical and philosophical enquiry and critical thinking too.

What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

Students will be required to engage in independent research and to embrace the concept of “reading around the topics” to develop critical analysis and scholarly opinions. A need for organisation and meeting deadlines. Students will reflect on their progress, knowledge and understanding. Students will be required to engage in the skills of problem solving, philosophical and ethical thinking and evaluation. Students will be expected to take a keen



interest in the world around them, both historically and in terms of modernity and to proactively engage in all lessons and guided tutorials.

What is the course content and how is this assessed?

The course will involve continuous formative and summative assessments throughout the academic year culminating in external examinations. The Year 12 AS external exams will address unit 1: Hinduism and a separate exam to address unit 2: Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Unit. The exams will distinguish between –

- AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including: religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching, influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies, cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice, approaches to the study of religion and belief.
- AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.
- AS 40% of overall A Level grade
- A2 60% of overall A Level grade

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

Students who have completed this qualification have gone on to study in a variety of academic and vocational fields including Journalism, Medicine, Law, Social work, Policing and other emergency services, Politics, Marketing, Nursing, Film studies, Drama, Theology indeed all possible career paths where the academic skill can be utilised. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject. The Russell Group Universities recognise A Level University as an accepted qualification. Some students use it as a spring board for the study of 'Politics, Philosophy and Economics'. Religious Studies is one of the oldest recognised Humanities subject in academia.

Religious Studies at A level is excellent preparation for both a medical based degree and a law degree. Anyone considering careers in these fields should give very serious consideration to opting for the Religious Studies at A level as the skills taught in both Year 12 and Year 13 are extremely beneficial to those opting to study medicine and law at university.

