

RMGS

Religious Studies

A Level (OCR)

What are the aims of the course?

- Develop your interest in religion and belief in relation to the wider world
- Develop your knowledge and understanding through rigorous study
- Understand how religious thought has contributed to individuals, communities and societies
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach
- Reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your studies

What does it involve?

This course is not for the intellectually faint-hearted. It allows students to explore some of the most profound questions that have puzzled humankind: Is life absurd and meaningless? Does God exist? Can we have knowledge prior to experience of the world? Is morality relative? What is the good life? Can science and religion converge? Is there a life after death? Why does evil exist?

The course has three areas:

- Philosophy of religion
- Ethics
- Developments in Christian Thought

How is it assessed?

Philosophy of religion	Paper 1: 120 marks 2 hours Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient philosophical influences • The nature of mind, body and soul • Does God exist? • Religious experience • The problem of evil • The nature of God • Religious language
Religion and Ethics	Paper 2: 120 marks 2 hours Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normative ethical theories • Ethical theory applied to specific topics, such as business • Ethical language and thought • Debates surrounding the idea of conscience • Sexual ethics and religious belief
Developments in religious thought (Christianity)	Paper 3: 120 marks 2 hours Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious beliefs, values and teachings in context • Sources of wisdom and authority • Practices which shape and reflect religious identity • Social and historical developments • Key themes of religion and society

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students should have a 6 in GCSE English Literature to be able to manage writing essays well. GCSE Religious Studies is **not** a requirement, but students should have a 6 in RS if it was taken.

Why is it a useful qualification?

This course is particularly useful for those students who want careers that involve arguments and disputation, or close examination of a text. It trains students well for higher education by allowing them to explore key ideas and texts. It fits particularly well with English, Psychology, History, Geography, Sociology and languages, but may be studied profitably in conjunction with any subjects. The ethical arguments offer useful insights to those going on to study medicine or science related subjects.

You will learn skills such as the ability to think an idea through in a systematic manner, critical analysis and the evaluation of ideas, the ability to summarise an argument, writing a persuasively, and the application of ethical theories to specific situation.

Religious Studies students go on to a wide range of careers, such as: law, education, civil service, personnel management, and anything involving the need to understand why people think and behave as they do. The ethical arguments studied offer useful insights to those going on to study medicine or science related subjects.