

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - Religious Studies

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA 7062

Why should I study this course? -

Do you ever wonder how or why you are here? Religious Studies is the course that can create more questions than answers. The course is ideal for anyone who wants to see the world from more than one perspective. From the beginning of the course you are quickly discussing the existence of God and looking at why some people do, some do not and some people are unsure as to whether God exists. Religious Studies is not only about religion, but also ethics, morals and values that shape the society we live in. There can be no better A-Level than this to make you prepare for 21st Century Britain. As we live in such a diverse society, it becomes even more important to have a better understanding of the people around us. Within the course there is a requirement to study one religion in-depth. You will study Buddhism and its beliefs and teachings.

Who is suitable to study this course? - This course is suitable for anyone who is open-minded and wants to learn more about society around them. It will help you debate better and challenge your own thinking. This course is ideal for anyone who wants to go out and investigate the world, who loves to find out more about some of the world's biggest religions, and who will realise why it's often difficult to make the right decisions.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? Having studied Religious Studies at GCSE will be beneficial however, because it is a Humanities subject, having studied History and Geography will also benefit you. An ability to write well will also be an advantage.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Students should have a Grade 5 in English as this will help access the course.

How is the Course Delivered? - You will have 4 hours of teaching per week. Most teaching will take place in a classroom setting however there will be opportunities to use the Computer Suites when researching and writing up projects.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for the existence of God. The Design Argument The Ontological Argument The Cosmological Argument	Philosophy of Religion: Religious Language Miracles Self, Death and Afterlife
Autumn 2	Philosophy of Religion: Evil and Suffering. Religious Experience	Ethics and Religion: Introduction to Meta-Ethics, the meaning of right and wrong Free will and Moral Responsibility
Spring 1	Ethics: Normative Ethical Theories. Natural Moral Law Situation Ethics	Ethics and Religion: Conscience Bentham and Kant
Spring 2	Ethics: Aristotle's Virtue Ethics Application of Ethical Theories	Buddhism and Dialogues: Gender and Sexuality Science The Challenge of Secularisation
Summer 1	Buddhism: Sources of Wisdom and Authority Ultimate Reality	Buddhism and Dialogues: Migration and Religious Pluralism Dialogues: The Dialogue between Buddhism and Philosophy The Dialogue between Buddhism and Ethics
Summer 2	Buddhism: Self, Death and Afterlife Expressions of Religious Identity	

How is the Course Assessed?

There are two examination papers to sit at the end of Year 13.

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

Section A: tests philosophy of religion and consists of two compulsory two-part questions; in each two-part question the first part tests AO1 (10 marks) and the second part tests AO2 (15 marks).

Section B: tests ethics and religion and consists of two compulsory two-part questions; in each two-part question the first part tests AO1 (10 marks) and the second part tests AO2 (15 marks).

Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues

Students study Buddhism for Component 2. The exam tests students' ability in relation to both AO1 and AO2. The paper is divided into three Sections:

- **Section A** covers the study of religion and consists of two compulsory two-part questions; in each two-part question the first part tests AO1 (10 marks) and the second part tests AO2 (15 marks).
- **Section B** covers the dialogue between religion and philosophy of religion; it is tested by one synoptic question from a choice of two testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks).
- **Section C** tests the dialogue between religion and ethical studies; it is tested by one synoptic question from a choice of two testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks)

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong (Pojman)

The Puzzle of Ethics (Vardy & Grosch)

Medical Ethics (Wilcockson)

Theology the basics (Alister McGrath)

Philosophy of Religion (Hick)

The God Delusion (Dawkins)

The Question of God (Michael Palmer)