

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies is an ideal option for those of you who enjoy asking those perplexing questions about life, the universe and everything. 'Is there a God?' 'Why is there suffering?' 'How should we live?' 'What happens when we die?' The syllabus provides an opportunity to explore the rich heritage of western philosophical and ethical thought and to consider how we might apply this to our worldviews and decision-making in our own 21st-century lives. The Investigations unit in Lower Sixth enables you to research in depth an aspect of Medical Ethics or another area of particular interest. You will be analysing, evaluating and challenging your own and others' thoughts, ideas and opinions while developing your ability to communicate them with eloquence and skill.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is NOT necessary to have GCSE Religious Studies, or to be 'religious' to do this subject. What IS necessary is an open, inquiring mind and plenty of enthusiasm. A good standard of written English is also required.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Religious Studies has strong links with most subjects. Many students combine RS with the sciences or with other arts and humanities subjects.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course will enable you to develop a range of transferable skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. Universities and employers welcome Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at A-level. Both disciplines enable you to analyse and evaluate both your own opinions and those of others, whilst exposing you to a wide range of current issues and debates that will provide an excellent foundation for Higher Education. The Medical Ethics component is particularly relevant for anyone considering pursuing a career in medicine or related fields.

COURSE CONTENT

AS-level

Unit 1: Foundations Philosophy Of Religion

Philosophical arguments for the existence of God: cosmological and design arguments.

Problems in the philosophy of religion: the problem of evil and suffering; the philosophical debate about miracles

Religion And Ethics

Ethical concepts: religion and morality; utilitarianism; situation ethics

Ethical dilemmas: issues of war and peace; sexual ethics

Unit 2: Investigations

This is an enquiry-based unit, allowing you to do independent research into topics of your choice, usually within the area of Medical Ethics.

A2-level

Unit 3: Developments Philosophy Of Religion

A further study of philosophical arguments for the existence of God, including critiques of religious belief.

Selected problems in the philosophy of religion (beliefs about life after death, religious language)

Religion And Ethics

A study of ethical concepts including: critiques, deontology, natural law, virtue ethics

A study of selected problems in ethics, including: meaning of ethical terms, emotivism, objectivity, justice, law and punishment.

Unit 4: Implications

A study of the implications of philosophical thought for religion and human experience. This unit is based on an anthology of philosophical texts which will be studied in class.