

# A Level Religious Studies

Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics, Study of Christianity.

## Prerequisite for study

It is not essentially that an A level RS student have studied the subject at GCSE, but it does give a solid grounding for the work covered in the A level course. However, any student who has attained a grade 5 or above at GCSE RS; and or, a grade 4 and above at GCSE English (Lang), is eligible for the A Level Religious Studies course.

## Exam Board

Edexcel.

## Course content

Students will sit three equally weighted papers.

### Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

**Content overview:** Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering.

Within the Philosophy of Religion there are six units covering themes such as:

Design Argument, Cosmological Argument, Ontological Argument, The Nature of Religious Experience, Influence of religious experience as an argument for the existence of God, The Problem of Evil and the Theodicies, Philosophical language, Works of scholars, Influences of developments.

### Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

**Content overview:** Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance.

Within the Religion and Ethics there are seven units covering themes such:

Environmental Issues, Equality, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Moral Law, War and Peace, Sexual Ethics, Ethical language, Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars, Medical ethics.

### Paper 3: Study of Religion: 4B Christianity

**Content overview:** In this component, learners have the opportunity to undertake a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought.

Within the Study of Religion: Christianity there are six units covering themes such as:

Religious beliefs, (The Trinity) values and teachings, Sources of wisdom and authority, Practices that shape and express religious identity (Eucharist), Social and historical developments, Works of Scholars, Religion and society (issues of gender and equality).

## 'Future Pathways': Careers open to those with A Level Religious Studies

Social Worker, Teaching (Both Primary and Secondary), Higher Education Lecturer, Law, Counsellor, Charity Fundraiser, Youth Worker, Police Officer, Journalist, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Civil servant, Political office, Ordained Ministry and Religious Life.

