

Religious Studies

Religious Studies A level will consist of three main areas of study.

In **Philosophy** you will study theories about the creation of the universe and the existence of God. You will also examine the debate over whether God and evil and suffering can co-exist.

Ethics greets us each morning in the newspapers and bids us good night on the evening news. Questions and dilemmas challenge us on a personal level all the time in our relationships at home, college or in society. You will study how people come to make decisions on a whole range of issues such as sexual behaviour (pornography, homosexuality), marriage and divorce, war and peace.

You will ask big questions: How should I behave? How must I live? Is honesty always really necessary? Is killing a person ever justified?

Never has an understanding of other world religions, their practices and beliefs been more important! The UK is an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-faith society and in the study of religion you will focus on the key beliefs and practices of **Islam**. This will also provide an opportunity to reflect on and explore the place and role of religion in the modern world. Alternatively, you will study and analyse the writings of the **New Testament** understanding the context and nature of some key texts.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Content overview

Philosophical issues and questions; the nature and influence of religious experience;
Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language;
Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief.

Assessment overview

An externally-assessed written examination comprising three sections. Students answer all questions in Section A, and Section B, and choose one question in Section C.

Section A

Three short, structured questions.

Section B

Two extended-response questions on an unseen passage.

Section C

A choice of two extended essay questions.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

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; Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.

Assessment overview

As Paper 1 and Paper 3/4

Paper 3: *Either* New Testament *or* Paper 4: A study of religion

Written examination: 2 hours
33.33% of the qualification
80 marks

Options

Students take **one** of the following six options:

4A: Buddhism

4B: Christianity

4C: Hinduism

4D: Islam

4E: Judaism

4F: Sikhism

Content overview

Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity; Social and historical developments; Works of scholars; Religion and society; Primary texts.

New Testament

Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament, Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus, Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship. Ways of interpreting the scripture. Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Scientific and historical, critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars. Works of scholars and set extracts

Assessment overview

As Paper 1 and 2

Link to anthology

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Religious%20Studies/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCE2016_AL_ReligiousStd_Anthology.pdf

Course Specific Entry Requirements

GCSE grade B in English Language and Religious Education

Religious Studies A Level will equip you with skills for careers involving problem solving, communication and presentation. It is therefore an excellent subject to choose if you are thinking about law, education, medicine, social work or most Undergraduate courses. It also works well with both Humanities and Science. An A Level in Religious Studies does not narrow your career path it widens it! It is very highly regarded by all universities which consider it to be an academic subject which promotes and develops necessary skills for future studies.

