



A Level Religious Studies with Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board: WJEC /EDUQAS

Aims of the Course:

This course will introduce you to a number of philosophers and philosophical ideas. You will examine different methods of investigating truth and reality in order to determine what makes a convincing argument. The ethics based modules of the course will entail investigations into a variety of contentious moral issues, pursuing contemporary case histories, and looking carefully at the impact of these on possible changes to the law.

Programme of Study at A Level:

Component 1 - Philosophy of Religion (Examination 2 hours). This component will examine deductive and inductive arguments for the existence of God and challenges to them; challenges to religious belief (particularly the problem of evil and suffering); the nature and validity of religious experience; the philosophy of language; the concept of miracles; psychological perspectives on religion and religious experience.

Component 2 - Ethics (Examination 2 hours). This component will involve applying ethical theories such as natural law, utilitarianism and situation ethics to ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, relationships, animal experimentation, capital punishment, immigration and nuclear weapons. Students will also examine the concepts of free will and determinism and the relationship between meta-ethics and ethical theories.

Component 3: The Study of Religion (Examination 2 hours). This component will involve a study of the following themes: religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts; religious life; religious practices; beliefs, values and teachings; diversity within religion; relationships and the family; historical developments including the changing relationship between religion and science.

This course is for you if you are interested in life, the universe and everything, if you follow current affairs, (particularly in relation to changing perspectives on moral issues and the law), and if you enjoy articulating your ideas and opinions and developing strong arguments to support them. Students will need to have a high work-ethic, maintain motivation throughout the course and have independent study skills.

This course will prepare you for a wide range of degree courses, including Philosophy and PPE, but also for other Humanities subjects including Law and Politics. An understanding of the complexities of medical ethics would also be useful in degrees such as Medicine and Pharmacy. Future career options are wide ranging encompassing everything from the legal profession, journalism and finance through to scientific and other academic research.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

Five grade 9-5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. A 9-5 in Religious Studies if studied or a Humanities based subject.





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