

# Philosophy, Ethics and Religion - A Level

Contact Person: Mr I Jones

## Course Outline:

The A Level in Religious Studies is an engaging, interesting and thought provoking study of the three main components of religion.

### Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

You will study ancient philosophical influences:

- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God (Theism v Atheism v Agnosticism)
- Is religious experience real or just wishful thinking
- How does religious experience affect people's individual actions
- Issues in religious language

### Component 2: Religion and Ethics

You will study:

- Different theories about *how* humans should make moral and ethical choices
- Opportunity will be given to apply ethical theory to two contemporary issues such as Abortion, War, Capital Punishment etc
- Consideration of whether or not we have a conscience

### Component 3: Developments in Religious Thoughts

You will study how **one** of the following religions have developed over the centuries:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Buddhism
- Hinduism

## Skills & Aptitudes Developed:

This course, offered by OCR, is unique as it combines the best of traditional A Level Religious Education with the best of the 'stand alone' Philosophy A Level. Students interested in both religious belief and human philosophy will, in studying this subject, get the best of both. This is a course for those interested in human beliefs and would like to consider in more depth the 'big' questions in life.

Questions such as; Do I have a soul? Does God exist? How do theists square the problem of evil? Do I exist in soul, mind and body? In addition you will become experts in how religious thinking has developed and how it still has a significant impact on how people think and act today.

## Entry Requirements:

Ideally students will have achieved a broad range of GCSE at grade 5 and above. For students who do not meet these requirements decisions will be made on the basis of the individuals potential by the curriculum leader.

## Progression Post-18

Universities and employers consider Religious Studies as a subject that develops high level thinking skills, equipping students with analytical and critical ability. Religious Studies is a rigorous academic course that requires students to think philosophically, use skills similar those required in the study of history and do empathise with others who may have different religious beliefs from their own.

