

## **The course offers you the opportunity to:-**

- Develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of the philosophy of religion and ethics
- Think independently and develop an academic understanding of the philosophy of religion and ethics
- Discuss the reasons people have for believing in God and for not believing in God
- Explore the relationship between religion and science
- Consider whether it is possible to speak meaningfully about God
- Consider a number of ethical theories: possible frameworks that underpin moral decision-making
- Explore the relationship between religion and morality
- Discuss issues concerning both human and animal life and death
- Examine what is meant by the word 'conscience'

## **What can Religious Studies 'A' Level be used for?**

Religious Studies combines well with all other humanities courses and with English, Classics, Psychology, Business Studies, Drama and Sciences. Previous students have gone on to pursue degree courses in Law, Medicine, Business Studies and Politics as well as in English, Drama and the Performing Arts.

## **Requirements for the Course**

- The ability to develop analytical and thinking skills
- The ability to develop the skills needed to write well-structured essays
- The desire to read and research
- The ability and desire to discuss and debate
- GCSE Religious Studies is **not** required for acceptance on the course

## **Which examination board?**

AQA.

## **How is this course assessed?**

All assessment is by final written examination. AS level examinations will be in June of Year 12. A level examinations will be in June of Year 13.

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## ***A brief outline of the first year of the course (AS Level):-***

### **Philosophy of Religion:-**

- Christian beliefs about God
- The possibility of life after death
- The Bible as a source of authority
- Arguments for the existence of God
- The challenge of evil and suffering to religious belief
- Religious experience

### **Ethics:-**

- Key Christian moral principles
- Christian religious identity
- Ethical theories: natural law, situation ethics and virtue ethics
- Issues of life and death: e.g. embryology, abortion, euthanasia, blood sports, intensive farming

### ***A brief outline of the second year of the course (A Level):-***

All of the AS content above is also in the specification for the 'A' level qualification. In addition, candidates will be studying the following in the second year of the course.

### **Philosophy of Religion:-**

- The challenge of science to Christian belief
- Freud and Marx on the nature and function of religion
- The place of Christianity in an increasingly secular world
- Liberation theology
- Religious language
- Miracles

### **Ethics:-**

- Christianity and sexual identity
- The ethical challenges of religious pluralism
- Meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- The role of conscience
- Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics