

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam board: OCR

Assessment methods: 100% exam

Length of exams: 3 x 2hrs

Breakdown of units:

The two year A-level course is split into three equally accredited Units. These are:

The Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences on the Philosophy of Religion
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in Religious Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
 - Sources of religious wisdom and authority
 - Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
 - Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
 - Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of one religion chosen from Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism or Hinduism

Overlap with other subjects: The course aims to develop students' ability to write extended essays, construct arguments, and convincingly evaluate positions. Students are required to understand complex ideas and arguments and to be able to understand if these arguments succeed and where they can be criticised. In essays, students need to be able to write convincingly and structure their own arguments to reach clear, justified judgements. As such, the course naturally overlaps with other subjects that require an analytical mind or essay writing skills. For example, many of the skills developed in Philosophy apply to History, English, Film and Media, Economics, Sociology, Classics, Government and Politics, and Psychology. In terms of course content many of the thinkers or ideas we study will surface elsewhere. For example, Marx, Mill, Freud, Piaget, Fromm, Aristotle, Plato, Aquinas and Nietzsche, who will be studied in Government and Politics, History, Psychology, English and

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