

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

(Exam Board: Eduqas)

Subject Leader: Mr J Neal

We study the Eduqas Examination Board Specification for Religious Studies at A Level.

What do I need?

Where students have studied Religious Studies before, they need to have achieved a Grade 4 at GCSE. Where Students have not studied Religious Studies at GCSE a grade 4 in English as well as good literacy skills are necessary. Most importantly students need to display: -

- An open mind
- A willingness to learn
- The ability to consider more than one point of view
- Commitment towards good attendance
- The ability to meet deadlines

What will I learn and how will I be assessed?

The course is based on three components

Components	Themes	Percentage	Assessment
1. A Study of Religion: Christianity (Option A)	Religious figures and sacred texts	33.3%	2 hour exam 2 essay style questions made up of 2 parts (some choice)
	Religious concepts and religious life		
	Significant social and historical developments in religious thought		
	Religious practices and religious identity		
2. Philosophy of Religion	Arguments for the existence of God	33.3%	2 hour exam 2 essay style questions made up of 2 parts (some choice)
	Challenges to religious belief		
	Religious experience		
	Religious language		
3. Religion and Ethics	Ethical thought	33.3%	2 hour exam 2 essay style questions made up of 2 parts (some choice)
	Deontological ethics		
	Teleological ethics		
	Determinism and free will		

Is there anything else I need to know?

What subjects does Philosophy, Religion and Ethics go well with?

- With **Sciences**: the Religious Studies course looks at medical, environmental and animal ethics, the Big Bang, Evolution, Miracles and Creationism. You will also need to develop the ability to evaluate different hypothesis.
- With **History, English and Politics**: In Religious Studies you will be required to use sources and texts, develop essay writing skills, formulate arguments, analyse and evaluate and use evidence. You will also develop understanding of the role of religion in society, immigration, capital punishment, nuclear weapons and freedom.
- With **Psychology & Sociology**: In Religious Studies you will investigate what Psychology and Sociology say about: Belief in God, Religious Experience, sexuality and evil and suffering
- With **Health and Social Care**: In Religious Studies you will study about social Responsibility and the principle of 'the greatest good for the greatest number of people; Situation Ethics and the principle of 'Agape' (selfless love); Christian teachings about caring for the poor and the weak; the role of religion in society.

What about Universities - how do they view Religious Studies?

Universities are very keen on students who have Religious Studies A Level because: -

- 25% of Oxford entrants have studied philosophy, ethics and religion
- Of the range of skills you learn (analysis, evaluation, essay writing, debating, presenting, hypothesising and criticising.)
- Of the topics covered e.g. morality, science, philosophy, psychology, logic, freedom, feminism, atheism, pluralism and the meaning of life.

Which degree subjects is it particularly useful for?

With the skills you will develop on the course a whole range of subjects will be open to you including; Theology, Religious Studies, Law, Medicine, Bio-medical Sciences, Politics, Sociology, History, Psychology, English.