



**RELIGION  
PHILOSOPHY  
& ETHICS**

# A-Level Course Information



**Qualification:** Advanced Level Religious Studies

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Subject Leader:** Mrs H. Powell

## Entry Requirements:

### Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

### Subject Specific Entry Requirements

6 in Religious Studies if taken at GCSE

or 6 in a humanities subject

## Why study Religion, Philosophy & Ethics?

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics is an ever-popular exam course, which deals with fundamental life questions that will inevitably impact on all of us at some time. The course involves the establishment of a body of key knowledge and understanding, as well as developing important skills such as critical analysis and evaluation of a variety of scholarly views, whilst improving student's essay-writing techniques.

## What can I do with Religion, Philosophy & Ethics after A-Level?

As a sound humanities A-level course, RPE could lead on to higher study in a range of subjects and be useful in a variety of careers. Many students could follow the course with a degree in Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theology, Sociology, Psychology or Law, but there is always a huge diversity here. Students find the critical reasoning skills and knowledge gained from RPE useful in a wealth of different careers such as medicine, law, human resources, and journalism.

## Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Extras

RPE will include the opportunity for students to attend external lectures designed for A-level students to extend knowledge and understanding of what is studied in college. We also have a range of contacts that we invite to talk to students, as well as utilising our links with the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge wherever possible.

## What will I study?

The subject content for A-Level Religious Studies is divided into 3 components;

1. Philosophy of Religion
2. Religion and Ethics
3. Development in Christian Thought

### Philosophy of Religion - 2 hour written paper

Philosophy of Religion examines the philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. The study begins by exploring ancient philosophical influences, notably in the work of Plato and Aristotle, then analyses arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the range of beliefs about life after death, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. Students also explore the logic and nature of philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers such as Ludwig Wittgenstein and Paul Tillich.

### Religion and Ethics - 2 hour written paper

Religion and Ethics considers where our sense of right and wrong comes from and what we mean when we use such ethical language. Students explore key ethical concepts concerning the origins of morality through the works of influential thinkers such as St. Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, Jeremy Bentham and Joseph Fletcher. Ethical theory will also be applied to important issues in society today such as business ethics, euthanasia and sexual ethics.

### Developments in Christian Thought - 2 hour written paper

Developments in Christian Thought explores the beliefs and values that shape religious identity. This element of the course explores how religious traditions have developed over time and how they continue to respond to the challenges facing contemporary society such as those imposed by secularisation, gender equality and social injustice. The content of this component also underpins student's understanding of the Philosophy & Ethics elements.