



Religious Studies

Advanced Level



Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements:

Students would be expected to have at least grade B/6 at GCSE, although students will be considered for the course who did not take RS at GCSE level.

Religious Studies will demand deep thinking!

Key skills are:

- Explanation
- Justification
- Examining
- Evaluation
- Analysis
- Critical consideration

"A student taking Religious Studies will enjoy debating controversial issues that challenge us in our daily lives as well as thinking outside the box, offering responses to all the big questions surrounding life, death and all the events that occur in the middle!"

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Why choose Religious Studies?

It will enable you to develop insights into areas of knowledge, belief and thought central to an understanding of the modern world. Through a study of philosophy, ethics and the world's major religions, you will be equipped with a range of knowledge and skills which will help them to make sense of contemporary events.

Assessment:

There will be two 3 hour written examinations at the end of the two year course. Both examinations have equal weighting and represent 50% of the overall grade.

Specification outline:

What will I study?

There are **two** exam papers (components) for this course.

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

In Component 1, you will be assessed on your knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse and evaluate philosophy of religion (Section A) and ethics and religion (Section B).

The exam tests your ability in relation to both AO1 and AO2.

Section A: tests philosophy of religion and consists of **two compulsory two-part questions**; in each two-part question the **first part** tests AO1 (10 marks) and the **second part** tests AO2 (15 marks).

Content:

- Arguments for the existence of God.
- Evil and suffering.
- Religious experience.
- Religious language.
- Miracles.
- Self and life after death.



Section B: tests ethics and religion and consists of **two compulsory two-part questions**; in each two-part question the **first part** tests AO1 (10 marks) and the **second part** tests AO2 (15 marks).

Content:

- Ethical theories.
- Issues of human life and death.
- Issues of animal life and death.
- Introduction to meta ethics.
- Free will and moral responsibility.
- Conscience.
- Bentham and Kant.





How will the subject help me in the future?

This is an important subject which is required for a whole range of careers in medicine, Teaching; the Police, Social Work and Law, and many other areas.

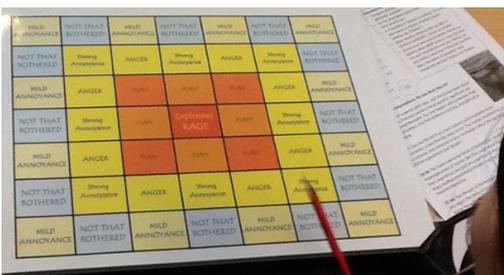
Students will be developing important high order thinking skills which universities and employers are looking for.

Interactive teaching and learning:

Every year Religious studies A-Level students take part in a Philosophy conference, providing an insight to university style lecture as well as an opportunity to put their understanding into a creative project.

Life? Death? Beyond?

- Students will meet in a university conference style to explore philosophical questions about life's meanings and purposes and about ideas of life after death.
- Through interactive team learning and high impact creative stimulus they will be challenged to be reasonable about religion and belief and to engage with diverse points of view deeply.
- **Be spiritual, be argumentative, be atheistic, be open minded, be yourself!**



Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues

In Component 2 you will be assessed on:

- 1) Your knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse and evaluate a single religion (**Section A**).
- 2) Issues related to the dialogue between philosophy of religion and the chosen religion (**Section B**).
- 3) Issues related to the dialogue between ethical studies and the chosen religion (**Section C**).

RE students at William Brookes will study option **2B (Christianity)**. The exam tests your ability in relation to both **AO1 and AO2**.

The paper is divided into **three** sections:

- **Section A** covers the study of religion and consists of **two compulsory two-part questions**; in each two-part question the **first part** tests **AO1 (10 marks)** and the **second part** tests **AO2 (15 marks)**.
- **Section B** covers the dialogue between **religion and philosophy** of religion; it is tested by **one synoptic question** from a choice of two **testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks)**.
- **Section C** tests the dialogue between **religion and ethical studies**; it is tested by **one synoptic question** from a choice of two **testing AO1 and AO2 (worth 25 marks)**.

Content:

Section A: Study of religion:

For the religion taught the following topics are covered:

- Sources of wisdom and authority.
- God/gods/ultimate reality.
- Self, death and the afterlife.
- Good conduct and key moral principles.
- Expression of religious identity.
- Religion, gender and sexuality.
- Religion and science.
- Religion and secularisation.
- Religion and religious pluralism.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion:

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion:

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.