

Religious Studies

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be religious or want to be a nun to study this subject?

Definitely not! This is a bright and vibrant area of study that does not require a prerequisite of a religious belief system. It does however require you to be curious about the world around you and have a desire to learn about other cultures, religions and belief systems including atheism (a belief that there is no God) and humanism.

What do I need to be successful in this subject?

You will be the kind of person who asks challenging questions of yourself and others and be open to the ideas and contributions of others even if they disagree with you. There is plenty of opportunity for discussion debate and a good argument. You will need to develop literacy skills in order to support the views that you have in written form. These skills will then enable everyone to tackle the exam questions that attract the highest marks on each paper. Part D questions always set a statement and ask the student to discuss the statement, considering different views and reach a conclusion; an excellent way in which to achieve the higher grades that everyone is aiming for.

What will I study?

Alongside the study of two world religions, this course also engages in topical and ethical debate on issues that we face in the world today.

Issues of relationships: marriage, divorce, sexual relationships, adultery, etc.

Issues of life and death: the origins of life, sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia, life after death, etc.

Issues of good and evil: crime, punishment, death penalty, forgiveness, evil and suffering, etc.

Issues of human rights: human rights and social justice, conflict between beliefs and laws of a country, censorship, racial prejudice and discrimination, etc.

The course is vibrant and topical and involves us all in developing the skills of discussion and debate. This means that occasionally we will confront views on which we disagree and will develop our understanding of how to formulate an argument and reach a conclusion. You will be encouraged to develop your own creative styles within the topics and there will be plenty of opportunity to be creative.

How will this help me in the future?

Critical thinking and debating are skills that are highly sought after in the wider world of further education and within the work place. The study of philosophy and ethics is highly regarded by universities as an academic discipline; anyone wishing to study Law, work in the armed services or the health service would benefit from this course. There are many other disciplines that would value this too.

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How is the course structured?

You will study the four themes above: relationships, life and death, etc, alongside the study of Christianity beliefs and practices. Also, Sikh beliefs and practices and how they might influence response to the ethical issues, alongside views of humanism and atheism too. The final exams consist of 8 questions each divided into A to D sections. There are three exam sessions. Ethics, Christianity and Sikhism

Religious Studies contacts:

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