

Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas

Staff Lead

L Partridge, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics?

If you love discussion and debate, have a sense of intrigue about what goes on in the world, then this is the course for you. We cover three subjects in this course: Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. Religious Studies encourages critical and systematic inquiry into fundamental questions of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, the meaning of life, and the nature of reality, knowledge and society. More than any other discipline, philosophy and ethics explores the core issues of the Western intellectual tradition. Within this subject you will develop your reasoning skills, develop coherent arguments and commit these to essay format. You will also develop the skill of critical thinking of religion, philosophical and ethical theories and the strengths and criticism of these.

Philosophy: This component provides students with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental themes, such as the nature and existence of God to the use of religious language to justify the existence of a supreme being. This is contrasted with arguments from the existence of evil and suffering and the psychological implications of the existence of religion through Freud and Jung.

Ethics: This component provides students with the opportunity to undertake discussions and debates about

ethical theories such as Situation Ethics, Natural Law and Implications of Free Will. These Ethical Theories are applied to current moral issues which affect our society such as Abortion, Euthanasia, Animal Testing and Capital Punishment.

Buddhism: This component allows students to undertake an in-depth study of the belief system of Buddhism. Students will cover a range of themes, from key teachings and practices that shape religious identity. Students will also study a range of different schools of Buddhism such as Zen, Pure Land, Theravada and Tibetan Buddhism, and the issues that affect them, such as challenges from Feminism, Science and Secularism.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Religious Studies provide a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including Religious and Theological Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Law, Sociology and Journalism. It also provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: Social Work, The Police Force, Armed Forces, Medicine, Legal System, Journalism and Education.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE with a minimum average grade of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in GCSE RS with a grade 5 in English. If you have not taken GCSE RS, a grade 6 or above in English is required.

Year 12	
Buddhism	Life of the Buddha, Key Beliefs and Teachings of Theravada Buddhism (Three Marks of Existence, Eightfold Path), Key Practices and Introduction to different schools of Buddhism.
Ethics	Virtue Ethics, Divine Command Theory, Ethical Egoism, Situation Ethics (applied to Polyamorous and Homosexual Relationships), Natural Law (applied to Abortion and Euthanasia) and Utilitarianism (applied to Nuclear Weapons as a deterrent and Animal Testing).
Philosophy	Teleological and Cosmological Argument, Ontological Argument, Arguments for Evil and Suffering, and Religious Experience (prayer, visions).
Year 13	
Buddhism	Buddhist texts and modern leaders, Japanese Buddhism (Zen, Pure Land), Buddhism and Ethical issues such as Feminism and Science. Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhism in the West.
Ethics	Free Will and Determinism, Natural Law (Finnis and Hoose - applied to Capital Punishment and Immigration), Ethical Thought (Naturalism, Emotivism and Intuitionism).
Philosophy	Religious Experience, Psychological implications of Religions (Freud and Jung), New Atheism, Religious Language.

Paper 1	Study of Religion - Buddhism	2 hours
Paper 2	Philosophy of Religion	2 hours
Paper 3	Religion and Ethics	2 hours