



A-level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Subject Lead: Mrs L Partridge

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

Specification Code: 601/8700/1

Is this course for me?

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.

Qualifications need:

At least a 5/6 grade in English, (5 GCSES at Grade 4-9). A GCSE in RS (at grade 6 or above is an advantage but NOT a requirement however an interest in philosophical and ethical debates is.

What skills does studying philosophy and ethics develop?

- Generate ideas on a variety of problems
- Formulate and solve problems. Uncover assumptions and suggest alternatives
- Ability to distinguish subtle differences without overlooking similarities
- Analyse, develop and formulate logical arguments
- Capability to make knowledgeable decisions, examining thoroughly the consequences of various actions
- Aptitude to examine various angles of topics
- Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively. Interpret, and assess various thoughts and theories.

How will you learn?

Lessons will involve a range of different approaches to appeal to all learning styles.

Alongside the traditional teaching through the use of PowerPoint delivery and note taking, there will be textbook reading and research. In addition, there will be an emphasis on flipped learning

encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning to fully benefit from lessons and develop skills which will prepare them for university. Seminar style lessons, debates and group discussions are built into schemes of learning where appropriate to allow controversial issues to be fully explored.





What will you study?

1. The Study of Religion – Buddhism Religious figures and Sacred texts, Religious Concepts; Religious life; Religious practices. Development of religious thought and contemporary issues; Religious identity.

2. Philosophy of Religion–Cosmological Argument for the existence of God; Teleological Argument for the existence of God; The Non-Existence of God: the Problem of Evil; Religious Experience. Arguments for the existence of God; Challenges to religious belief; Religious Language.

3. Ethics and Religion -- Ethical Language and Thought; Aquinas' Natural Law; Fletcher's Situation Ethics; Utilitarianism. All applied to euthanasia and abortion. Deontological ethics; Teleological ethics; Freewill and Determinism. All applied to embryo research, experimentation, transplantation and genetic engineering.

Where will it lead?

Philosophy and Ethics at A level is as useful to those students considering further education as it is to pupils entering employment. The qualification is highly regarded by universities and employers because of its underlying skills base. The skills of empathy, evaluation, forming a coherent argument, critical analysis and debate are applicable across a wide range of professions. It is an excellent preparation for a career in law, medicine, business, international diplomacy, social work, banking, armed forces, public relations, publishing, journalism, retail, librarian, counselling, marketing, consulting, civil service, teaching and accountancy (to name just a few!).

Russell Group states that: "Religious Studies... provides suitable preparation for entry to university in general."

If there are any questions regarding the A-level please email Miss Partridge:

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