

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND THEOLOGY)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Exam Board: OCR

Philosophy of Religion (Philosophy) - Does God exist? If yes, what's God like and how does God relate to the World? How beliefs on this have changed over time. How people use language to describe Religious experiences they have and how they describe the "spiritual realm." Is there any meaning in suffering? If yes, what is it? How our (religious) language has changed over time as our beliefs change.

Developments in Christian Thought (Theology) - What is Human Nature? Is there an Afterlife and what is it like? Foundations of Christian Belief: Is it possible to know God, and if so how? Who was Jesus Christ and why is he so significant for Christians? Christian living and practice – what, if anything, does it mean to be male and female? What is liberation theology? How can it help me understand current race-relations debates? Contemporary Challenges to Religious Belief.

Religion and Ethics (Ethics) - How should we then live? Ethical Theories, Applied Ethics: Euthanasia, Sexual and Business Ethics; Significant Ideas; Developments in Ethical Thought e.g. what is consciousness? What is a conscience?

ASSESSMENT:

Students will sit three papers at the end of year 13: **Paper 1:** Philosophy of Religion; **Paper 2:** Religious Ethics; **Paper 3:** Developments in Christian Thought.

For each paper, candidates will be required to answer 3 questions from a choice of 4. Questions are essay style and worth 40 marks each.

SKILLS:

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It brings together a wide range of skills and disciplines: historical, textual, linguistic, sociological and literary-critical and helps student to read and understand the society they inhabit.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics provides an excellent grounding for a wide range of careers in: Law, journalism, communications, civil service, teaching or academia. Others go on to work for charitable organisations, the civil service, newspapers and local government.