

# A Level Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

*Have you ever wondered...*

*Is it selfish to want to be happy?*

*Do we exist after our bodies die?*

*How do we know what is right?*

*How did the universe begin?*

*What sort of God, if any, exists?*

These important questions and many other related ones will be explored and used to challenge your thinking and evaluative skills.

This course is intellectually demanding, exciting and a challenge. You get the chance to assess the ideas of the most influential thinkers and movements of the past 2,500 years.

Expect few hard and fast answers, but to have your critical faculties vigorously exercised.

Religious Studies is an A Level really worth considering and makes an excellent combination with science, humanities and arts subjects. If you would like to sharpen your critical thinking, develop your analysis and evaluative skills and tease your brain, this course is for you.

## COURSE CONTENT

All students follow the AQA Religious Studies (Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, Religion and Dialogues) course which is assessed by two 3 hour written exams for each component. They will cover the following 2 units:

### **Philosophy of Religion and Ethics:**

Arguments for the existence of God; Evil and Suffering; Religious Experience; Religious language; miracles and the self, death and the afterlife.

The ethical theories of Natural Moral Law, Situation and Virtue Ethics; Issues of human and animal life and death (embryo research; cloning; abortion; euthanasia; capital punishment; the status and rights of animals; blood sports); Meta Ethics; Free will; conscience and a comparison of the views of Bentham and Kant.

### **Study of Religion and dialogues:**

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 and gender, sexuality, science, secularisation and religious pluralism. This paper also includes a

consideration of the dialogues between philosophy of religion, ethics and religion.

### **Connections:**

Throughout the course students will be encouraged to develop their understanding of the connections between the two units.

## OPPORTUNITIES

This subject would be particularly useful to anyone wishing to study medicine, law or enter the paramedical, law enforcement or teaching professions.

Many Higher Education institutions look favourably upon this course due to the transferable thinking and reasoning skills which are developed, however, it is extremely useful if studying Criminology or Sociology.

### **It is also useful in the following professions:**

#### **Management:**

- Leisure and Travel
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Broadcasting and Journalism
- Personnel

#### **Publishing:**

- Banking and Accountancy
- Computing
- Civil Service
- International and Local Government.

In fact the subject complements a wide range of subject combinations; not only in arts, humanities and social science, but also the sciences.

### **So where does Philosophy and Ethics get you in the end?**

It is hoped that anyone who studies philosophy, ethics and religion will arrive at a better understanding of the subjects, whatever their reactions to them. Equally important they will have a better understanding of themselves and their world, in whatever direction this may lead them.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENT

The minimum entry requirements for Level 3 academic study apply. A grade 6 in English is also required.

For further information visit: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)