

A Level Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA
 Specification Code: 7062 – A Level

Why Religious Studies?

Throughout the world, religion continues to be a force for reconciliation or conflict amongst individuals and communities. An understanding of the nature and contemporary role of religion therefore seems important.

This course aims to assist the understanding, by a method of debate and enquiry. Philosophical and sociological approaches will be used alongside consideration of the historical, legal and traditional issues.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition students are expected to achieve at least a grade 6 in GCSE full or short course religious studies.

Course Content

Component 1: Philosophy & Religion includes:	Component 2: Ethics, Religion and Society includes:
❖ The challenge of science	❖ Medical issues i.e. abortion, genetic engineering & euthanasia
❖ Life after death	❖ Animal rights
❖ Miracles	❖ Sexual identity
❖ Religious experience	❖ Free will and moral responsibility
❖ The nature and role of religion	❖ Conscience
❖ Wisdom and authority	❖ Secular ethical theories

Candidates must study both components. There is no controlled assessment/coursework. All students will sit two exam papers. Each exam paper will be 3 hours in length.

How does this learning differ from Pre-16 study?

You will be expected to read widely during the one or two years of your course and much of this will be independent. You will be expected to be prepared to participate and contribute to discussions, research, prepare and deliver presentations and develop sophisticated essay writing techniques.

Prospects

Students are strongly advised to investigate the possibility of A Level work in RS. Although you may not intend to specialise in the subject beyond A Level, you will find that the study of religious ideas and the exploration of religious, philosophical and ethical questions can illuminate and complement other subjects, whether in the arts, the humanities or the sciences. It needs to be stressed that, at external examination level, RS is accorded the same status as any other subject.

A number of skills are involved (and required) which can be useful in pursuing certain careers.

Former students say:

- *'I thoroughly enjoyed the RS course. Ethics has been useful in my medical studies...I found the interviewers were interested that I had studied it at A Level'.*
- *'RS is definitely something that future medical applicants should consider'.*
- *'The ethics module helped me in my university interviews'.*
- *'I chose to study RS because I want to study Law at university. Many laws that exist today have their grounding in religious teaching. I feel it is important to understand how the legal system considers religious beliefs and differing communities'.*

Many students have gone on to apply their RS skills in a wide range of higher education opportunities and careers i.e. BBC Religious Affairs correspondent, medical professionals, teachers, lawyers, journalists and many more.

Contacts

Please contact Ms. J. Duncalf, Head of Religious Studies, if you wish to discuss this qualification.