

Both pathways

What is Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics?

The world we live in is remarkably diverse, playing host to a wide variety of peoples, cultures and belief systems. Throughout history religion has formed a central part of peoples' lives, feeding into this diversity to create a world of fascination and mystery. The study of religion enables us to explore the nature of our own existence and what it means to be human, regardless of whether or not we are religious ourselves. Meanwhile, the study of philosophy dates back to the Ancient Greeks. Since this point in time its themes, concepts and methods have provided humanity with the chance to ask, and explore possible answers to, the 'big' questions in life, such as "how did the universe come into being?" and "what is the meaning of life?" Alongside this, the study of ethics investigates the true meaning of morality, including what is truly meant by 'right' and 'wrong.' The study of these three disciplines therefore promotes critical and independent thinking, encouraging pupils to justify their own beliefs as well as understanding the beliefs of others, broadening horizons and opening minds.

Course Content

UNIT 1: *The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices.*

Pupils will study two religions in depth, learning about their central beliefs and teachings as well as cultural traditions and religious heritage. This will include the study of festivals, ceremonies, holy texts and methods of worship, to name but a few.

UNIT 2: *Thematic Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)*

Pupils will study a range of philosophical and ethical concepts including the meaning of life, the existence of God, crime and punishment and human rights and social justice. This will encourage pupils to think critically in order to evaluate and critique different ideas, arguments and interpretations before forming their own, justified opinions.

Assessment:

Both units are assessed by examination at the end of Year 11.

UNIT 1: 50%. 1 hour 45 minutes.

UNIT 2: 50%. 1 hour 45 minutes.

Trips, Resources and other opportunities: (Subject to Covid-19 regulations)

Visits to local places of worship. Visiting speakers, including local religious leaders.

Pupil Quotes:

"Religious Studies encourages me to think and to question everything around me."

"I feel inspired to investigate world issues and to fight for what's right."

"Religious Studies allows me to express my own opinion and teaches me how to engage in critical debate."

Subject Leader: Megan Mordrick

Exam Board:

Subject:	Board:	Syllabus Code:	Examination/NEA/Coursework
GCSE Religious Studies	AQA	8062	Exam 100%