



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WJEC AS/A2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade B or above in FULL course GCSE.

COURSE CONTENT

PROFILE

The Religious Studies course is designed to allow students to consider religious, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues. The chosen units provide students with the opportunity to carry out an in depth study of a major world religion; to study relationships between religion and ethics; consider moral values and attitudes of individuals, faith communities and contemporary society; develop skills in reasoning and the ability to make responsible judgments on moral teaching and issues.

CONTACT

Subject Lead: Mrs C Whatley

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

AS Level – Year 12

Unit 1 (AS) 15%

Unit 2 (AS) 25%

A2 Level – Year 13

Unit 3 (A2) 20%

Unit 4 (A2) 20%

Unit 3 (A2) 20%

There is an emphasis on active learning throughout the course which include small group and whole class discussion and debate, independent research, the use of ICT and pupil presentation. Students are taught to develop their literacy skills, particularly essay writing which is essential for the examinations.

AS Unit 1: An Introduction to the Study of Religion

This involves a study of one of the major world religions across four main themes: religious figures and sacred texts religious concepts religious lifereligious practices that shape identity. The chosen religion is Judaism.

AS Unit 2: An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion / Religion and Ethics

Section A: An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion. Students study philosophical themes including: Arguments for the existence of God – the cosmological, teleological and ontological arguments for the existence of God. Arguments against the existence of God – the problem of evil and suffering. Students consider whether events, like the Holocaust, prove that God doesn't exist. Students consider the nature and validity of religious experience in the modern world e.g. do miracles actually occur or are they just wishful thinking?

Section B: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics. Students study a range of traditional and modern ethical theories and approaches including: Ethical thought including Divine Command Theory, Virtue Theory and Ethical Egoism. Aquinas' Natural Law and its application to abortion and voluntary euthanasia. Fletcher's Situation Ethics and its application to homosexuality and polyamorous relationships. Utilitarianism and its application to animal experimentation for medical research and the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

A2 Unit 3: Study of a Religion

Students carry out an in depth study of a major world religion (Judaism), based on the following themes: Religious figures and sacred texts. Significant historical development in religious thought. Significant social development in religious thought. Religious practices that shape identity.

Unit 4: Religion and Ethics

Students study more complex ethical theories and approaches including: Ethical thought including Naturalism, Intuitionism and Emotivism. Deontological Ethics - a development of Natural Law studied at AS, Determinism and Free will.

Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion

Students study more complex philosophical concepts within the following themes: Challenges to religious belief | Religious experience | Religious language.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Religious Studies or related courses at higher education. Students who wish to pursue careers in education, social work, the police force, law or medicine, for example, will find this course most beneficial due to the nature of many topics studied throughout the course.