

Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics: KS5

The KS5 course is designed around the three key themes of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Philosophy	Ethics	Religion: Developments in Christian Thought
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Philosophical language and thought: Ancient philosophical influences & Soul, Mind and Body	The existence of God: Arguments based on observation & Arguments based on Reason	God and the world: Religious Experience & The Problem of Evil	Theological and philosophical developments: The nature or attributes of God	Religious language: Negative, Analogical or Symbolic	Religious language: Twentieth century perspectives and philosophical comparisons
Normative ethical theories - Religious Approaches: Natural Moral Law & Situation Ethics	Normative ethical theories: Utilitarianism and Kant	Applied ethics: Euthanasia & Business Ethics	Ethical language: Meta-ethics	Significant ideas: Conscience	Developments in ethical thoughts: Sexual Ethics
Developments in Christian thought – Insight: Augustine, Human nature & Death and the Afterlife	Developments in Christian thought – Foundations: Knowledge of God's Existence & The Person of Jesus	Developments in Christian thought – Living: Christian moral principles & Christians moral action	Developments in Christian thought – Development: Religious pluralism & theology / society	Developments in Christian thought – Society: Gender & Society / Theology	Developments in Christian thought – Challenges: The Challenge of Secularism & Liberation Theology

How is the RPE A Level assessed?

Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment Details	Weighting
H573/01	Philosophy of Religion	Complete three out of the four essay questions. 120 marks – 2 hour written paper	33.3%
H573/02	Religious Ethics	Complete three out of the four essay questions. 120 marks – 2 hour written paper	33.3%
H573/03	Developments in Christian Thought	Complete three out of the four essay questions. 120 marks – 2 hour written paper	33.3%

Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics) OCR A Level course

Intent		What new knowledge/content do we introduce?				
By the end of KS5 students are able to...		Year 12	Year 13	Choices	How does this curriculum incorporate the specification and go beyond it, ensuring challenge?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of Christianity develop knowledge and understanding of philosophy of religion appropriate to a KS5 course develop knowledge and understanding of religion and ethics including different normative and meta-ethical approaches and applied ethics, appropriate to a KS5 course develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study 	Autumn	Philosophy of religion: Ancient philosophical influences Religion and ethics: Normative ethical theories – Christian ethics (Natural moral law, Kantian ethics) Developments in religious thought: Christian moral principles & Christian moral action	Philosophy of religion: Ideas about the nature of God Religion and ethics: Meta-ethical theory Developments in religious thought: Gender and society; Gender and theology Revision of Year 1 content	Christianity has been chosen as the world religion for in depth study. As much of the course focuses on Western Philosophy, there is an overlap between this content and Christian Theology. The study of Christianity as the chosen religion therefore allows for a greater understanding of the context and debates behind elements of the Philosophy of Religion components studies. It also facilitates inter-leaving of units to facilitate prior recall and synoptic links as opportunities to further consolidate student understanding.	Super-curricular opportunities are built into every topic. These include additional reading (academic articles), watching online lectures (for example through the Massolit platform), listening to podcasts and completing online courses such as those offered by FutureLearn. Students will be offered the opportunity to visit Athens. Here they can visit key sites relevant to Ancient Philosophy as a chance to contextualise their studies and deepen their understanding of the roots of Western Philosophy. Termly seminars, conferences and talks relevant to their studies will be advertised and, where viable, trips organised. This will also include essay competitions and taster events. A whole school weekly Philosophy club is run and KS5 students can have the opportunity to attend and contribute towards this as a way of consolidating their learning and revising key ideas. More broadly it also facilitate student leadership and showcases Sixth Formers as role models for the rest of the school.	
		Philosophy of religion: The nature of the soul, mind and body Religion and ethics: Normative ethical theories – Kantian ethics Developments in religious thought: Knowledge of God's existence	Philosophy of religion: Ideas about the nature of God Religion and ethics: Meta-ethical theory; Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience Developments in religious thought: Religious pluralism and theology; Religious pluralism and society Revision of Year 1&2 content			
	Spring	Philosophy of religion: Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God Religion and ethics: Normative ethical theories – Utilitarianism Developments in religious thought: Death and the Afterlife	Philosophy of religion: Issues in religious language Religion and ethics: Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience; Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs Developments in religious thought: The Challenge of Secularism Revision of Year 1&2 content			
		Philosophy of religion: The nature and impact of religious experience Religion and ethics: Applied ethics: Euthanasia Developments in religious thought: Augustine's teaching on human nature	Philosophy of religion: Issues in religious language Religion and ethics: Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs Developments in religious thought: Liberation Theology and Marx Revision of Year 1&2 content			
	Summer	Philosophy of religion: The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil Religion and ethics: Applied ethics: Business ethics Developments in religious thought: The person of Jesus Christ	Revision of all units			
		Revision of all units and consolidation of Year 1 Preparation for Year 2 content	N/A – students completing exam series			
	Rationale for this sequence	The Religious Studies A level course is divided into three components – Philosophy of Religion, Religion and ethics, Developments in Christian thought. The content within the respective units for these components is designed to facilitate synoptic links across the course so that students can respond critically to the material learnt. Thus, the sequencing above is planned so that students are required to recall prior learning as they revisit key ideas within new topics. Furthermore, the themes are inter-leaved to help with the consolidation of the content and enable frequent opportunities to revisit any misconceptions. To support this, in Year 2, regular testing and knowledge organisers are used to return to Year 1 content alongside learning new Year 2 material.				
	How does the KS5 Curriculum build on previous learning at KS4?	The Religious Studies KS5 A level builds on both core and GCSE RS at KS4 by developing further their understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contributions to individuals, communities and societies. It continues to build skills in critical analysis and reflection as students formulate their own opinions and attitudes in light of their study.				