



Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

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*How do we know what is right and wrong?
Should Euthanasia be legalised?
How do we know what is real?*

*What is the conscience?
Can we trust our senses?
Is it reasonable to believe in God?*

**Find these questions interesting? Find current affairs and issues interesting?
Then this is the course for you!**

Qualifications and Qualities Needed

You will need a grade 6 in GCSE RS or another Humanities subject (History or Geography) and a 6 in GCSE English. There is NO requirement to have studied GCSE RS.

Course Structure

This will be a two year course and there is no coursework. The exam consists of three papers (each 2 hours). It is an academic subject and is suitable for students of any or no faith background.

Some of the topics studied include:

Philosophy of religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- The possibility of life after death
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and ethics:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will
- The influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion.

Developments in religious thought:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Complementary subjects

This course encourages critical thinking and essay writing skills, so it is compatible with many other A Level subjects, including English, History, Sociology and Psychology. It can also be used in unison with Politics, and Economics as part of a PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) pathway at university.

Future Pathways

Many employers and Universities value the skills that are fostered through a course such as this. There are a variety of career opportunities that students could follow including: Law, Medicine, Commerce and Industry, Politics and Research, Business Management, Journalism, Civil Service and Teaching.