



**A LEVEL RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**

EDUQAS RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Hinduism are our selected options

The A Level will comprise of 3 assessment units

- Philosophy of Religion 33.3%
- Religious Ethics 33.3%
- Hinduism 33.3%

Each unit is a two hour exam at the end of year 13.

EXAMPLE OF COURSE CONTENT –PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Through the study of the philosophy of religion, students will encounter arguments that aim to prove the existence of God, as well as looking at scholars who have aimed to show that God does not exist.

Traditional arguments for the existence of God:

- **The ontological argument** from Anselm, Malcolm and Descartes, and challenges to it from Gaunilo and Kant
- **The cosmological argument** for Aquinas and Kalam, and challenges to it from Hume
- **The teleological argument** for Aquinas, Tennant and Paley, and the challenges to it from Hume, Mill and Darwin

Challenges to religious belief:

- The problem of evil and the classical theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus

Psychology of Religion

- Comparison of the work of Freud and Jung
- Is religion and God just a construct of the human mind?

COURSE CONTENT – RELIGIOUS ETHICS

Through the study of religious, students will encounter work from scholars who claim that morally good behaviour is linked closely to religious ideals, as well as examining the work on non religious scholars and their attempts to create ethical systems of behaviour.

Natural Law Theory - A religious approach to ethics.

- St Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law Theory as a popular religious theory of ethics and apply this theory to the issues of abortion and euthanasia.

Ethical Egoism.

- The idea that ethics is and should be based on self-interest as opposed to altruism.

Utilitarianism - a non religious approach to ethics.

- a secular form of ethics known as Utilitarianism. Students will examine different forms of Utilitarianism and apply these to animal testing and the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

Applied ethics

- Topics include abortion, euthanasia, immigration and capital punishment.

COURSE CONTENT – HINDUISM

Through the study of Hinduism, students will encounter the core beliefs and values of the religion and examine how these have evolved over time, to make Hinduism the oldest and most complex world religion..

Religious figures and sacred texts

- Origins of Hinduism - The Indus Valley Civilisation and the Aryan influence upon it.
- Role of texts in the life of a Hindu – The nature of sacred texts in Hinduism and their varying content and focus throughout the years.

Religious concepts

- Brahman and atman – beliefs and interpretations of God and the soul
- Karma and reincarnation –the order in life and the consequences in the next
- Ahimsa – the role of non violence in Hinduism

Religious practices

- Puja – worship both at home and in the temple
- Holi and Durga Puja – key festivals
- The status of women in India

COURSE AIMS

Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.

Reflect on and develop values, opinions and attitudes in the light of what is learnt.

Develop interest and enthusiasm for the study of religion and relate it to the wider world

Develop the ability to communicate ideas through reasoned arguments substantiated by evidence.

FUTURE PATHWAYS – WHAT DO RE STUDENTS GO ON TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

- Philosophy
- Politics
- Theology/ Religious Studies
- Law
- Psychology

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

3 ring binders for current work – one for LR, one for AC, one for HS

3 lever arch folders for completed topics – kept at home

Lined paper

Coloured pens/ highlighters

EXPECTATIONS

100% attendance

Keeping up with work and deadlines

Be organised

Be willing to work independently

Advance warning of absence

Ask for help

Students only get out of the course what they are willing to put in.