



## PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

5 x 9 - 4 Grades, including Grade 9 – 4 English and Mathematics  
GCSE English Grade 5 or above **and** GCSE Religious Studies Grade C or above

### THE COURSE

The A Level Religious Studies will provide students with an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of religion and explore philosophy of religion, and religion and ethics.

Learners engage in relevant topical issues and acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN

#### 1. Philosophy of Religion

Part A – The course begins with a study of Ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle and the Judeo-Christian influences on the philosophy of religion. Then students study the topics of Soul, mind and body, life after death and philosophical language and thought.

Part B – Students then critically analyse three contrasting arguments regarding the existence of God and examine the challenges to belief by exploring the problem of evil and suffering. Finally students explore the nature of God.

Part C – Students explore Religious language and examine how views of religious language change over time, as well as studying Twentieth century perspectives.

#### 2. Religion and Ethics

Part A – Students study 3 normative ethical theories which are then applied to 2 issues of importance; sex and sexuality and euthanasia.

Part B – Students examine ethical language through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers. As part of this students explore meta-ethics examining how ethical language has changed over time and been interpreted by different individuals.

Part C – Students explore the idea of free will and conscience and are introduced to the Euthyphro Dilemma.

#### 3. Developments in Christian Thought

Part A – Students explore the different Christian interpretations of human nature, as well as the promise and nature of the afterlife, enabling discussions about faith and reason.

Part B – Students explore the historical and theological understandings of Jesus Christ by considering Jesus as an historical figure and his teachings, as well as how scholars have represented him.

Part C – Students examine the relationship between religion and society and the ways the Christian traditions view other religious and non-religious worldviews and their truth claims. Students study the changing roles of men and women, feminism and its effect on theology by exploring Christian response to the changing place of women in society.

### ASSESSMENT

All components are assessed by written examination which takes place at the end of two years of study.

### SUPPORTING SUBJECTS

English, History, Politics, Sociology, Geography and Psychology

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Law, Education, Politics, Medicine, Administration or the Media.