

We follow the **Edexcel** specification which aims to encourage students

- To develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion
- To learn appropriate academic skills and an understanding of scholars' views.
- To have an open, enquiring and empathetic approach to the study of religion.

There are two units to the AS course

FOUNDATIONS INVESTIGATIONS

Each unit is worth 50% of the AS.
The AS is worth 50% of the A level.

1. FOUNDATIONS

There is **one exam** at the end of the year of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours duration.

You will have to answer **three** questions from **two** areas of study.

Each student must complete a compulsory module in Philosophy of Religion and select either option 1 or 2 for their second module.

The areas of study available are:

- The Philosophy of Religion (compulsory module)
- Option 1: Ethics
- Option 2: St John's Gospel

A Philosophy of Religion

We will study two of the philosophical arguments used to explain the existence of God.

The argument from design
The cosmological argument

We will also explore some of the philosophical issues involved in the problem of evil and in talking of miracles.

Option 1. Ethics

We will study the relationship between religion and morality and consider questions such as: is God necessary for morality?

We will also examine the morality of war and sexual ethics.

Option 2. St John's Gospel

We will study some of the key themes in St John and try to understand the meaning of this profound gospel.

Jesus' miracles
The role of women

The nature of discipleship

2. INVESTIGATIONS

This unit allows the student to pursue research into a topic area that particularly interests them.

We currently offer two specific areas of study:

- Environmental Ethics
- Religion and Science

The purpose is to encourage your independent learning and research.

You will develop skills of evaluation and learn how to use a wide range of source material.

It is assessed through an exam of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours. The question will be open ended. As there is no set content for this part of the specification you will use the material of your research to address the question.

What do we expect of you?

- To take responsibility for your own learning
- To develop a variety of learning skills
- To participate fully in classes

What do you need?

Most importantly - interest! If you're asking questions and wondering what it's all about, then this subject is for you. You will also be asked to read and to write essays so you will need a good standard of English.

And of course you should also be ready to discuss - and to listen to others.

What value?

Religious Studies is accepted as an academically valuable A level by all universities.

It combines well with most other subjects. In the past science, arts and humanities students have found it a useful and enjoyable subject.

And afterwards . . .

Most students continue with the subject to A2: the same modules are studied - Philosophy of Religion and Ethics or St John's Gospel.

Students have gone on to study a range of subjects in Higher Education. Those who pursue Religious Studies at University have gone on to many different careers: Journalism, Law, Teaching, Medicine, Nursing, Personnel and many others.

Who will teach you?

David O'Neill
Sian May

We have a wealth of experience and will willingly guide you through the maze of AS.

**AS LEVEL
RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**

This AS offers an introduction to the study of religion.

It examines key philosophical arguments and ideas that have shaped western theology and culture. We also examine the morality of war and sexual ethics. We also examine the teaching of the Fourth Gospel.

This is a rigorous and critical study which will encourage you to think and ask questions - and maybe to see things in a different light.

Prepare to be challenged!

RELIGIOUS STUDIES