

Overview of Religious Studies A Level

Paper 1: Christianity	Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion	Paper 3: Ethics and Religion
<p><u>Which topics are assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious figures and sacred texts • Religious concepts and religious life • Significant social and historical developments in religious thought • Religious practices that shape religious identity 	<p><u>Which topics are assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for the existence of God • Challenges to religious belief • Religious experience • Religious language 	<p><u>Which topics are assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical thought • Deontological ethics • Teleological ethics • Determinism and Free will
<p><u>How are they assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination – 2 hours • 100 marks in total • 33.3% of A Level 	<p><u>How are they assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination – 2 hours • 100 marks in total • 33.3% of A Level 	<p><u>How are they assessed?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination – 2 hours • 100 marks in total • 33.3% of A Level
<p><u>What are the questions like?</u></p> <p>A) Explain issues raised by the use of male language about God. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Understanding God as mother weakens the traditional idea of the Christian God.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Explain ways in which God’s love is a potential model for Christian behaviour. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘God’s behaviour towards human beings is not an ideal basis for Christian morality.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Explain Crossan’s view that Jesus was a social revolutionary. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘The apocryphal gospels are not a valid basis for understanding Jesus.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p>	<p><u>What are the questions like?</u></p> <p>A) Examine the main criticisms of religion made by New Atheism. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Religious responses have overcome the challenges from New Atheism.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Explain how religious language can be understood as a language game. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘The strengths of language games outweigh the weaknesses.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Examine the Teleological Arguments for the existence of God as presented by Aquinas and Paley. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Teleological Arguments for God’s existence are still persuasive in the 21st century.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p>	<p><u>What are the questions like?</u></p> <p>A) Apply Proportionalism to the issue of capital punishment. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Proportionalism promotes immoral behaviour.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Apply Rule Utilitarianism to the issue of animal experimentation for medical research. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Pleasure is the sole intrinsic good in life.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p> <p>A) Explain Divine Command Theory. [20]</p> <p>B) ‘Morality is clearly whatever God commands.’ Evaluate this view. [30]</p>

Why Religious Studies?

- Investigate ultimate questions such as "why does evil exist?" and "what is the purpose of life?"
- Study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world
- Improve philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box
- Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as medical ethics and religious fundamentalism
- Develop communication skills and learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Is Religious Studies compatible with my other options?

Psychology	In Philosophy, we look at Freud's views on religion and in Ethics we look at how free we really are, are actions really our choice?
English Literature	In Christianity, we will analyse texts in the Bible and examine the way meaning and purpose has been applied to them.
English Language	In Philosophy and Ethics, we learn about the meaning of words, how people use language to influence society and actions.
Maths	In Philosophy, there are elements that focus on logic and reasoning and evaluating the value of knowledge.
Business Studies	In the Ethics portion of the course we study about free will and decision making.
History	Throughout the course, we discuss the development of thought throughout history. The analytical skills needed are very similar and students often find the subjects compliment each other.
Sciences	In Ethics, we apply ethical theories to topics such euthanasia.
Sociology	In Christianity, we analyse the role and impact of gender roles, as well as secularism and the increasing impact of society on religious thought.

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies provides 'suitable preparation for university' and Oxford and Cambridge include it in their top level list of 'suitable arts a levels'.

SKILLS:

Clear and disciplined thinking and reflection
 Analysis of sacred writings
 Evaluation of philosophical and ethical concepts
 Application of ethical theories to key issues

Specification Title - Eduqas A 120U

For further details please contact:

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