

A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy, Ethics and Study of Religion

Do you enjoy:

- Taking part in discussions and debates?
- Listening to other people's views?
- Learning about different and often unusual ideas from both atheists and religious thinkers?
- Looking for answers when there are no set right or wrongs?



If so, then A Level Religious Studies focusing on philosophy and ethics is the course for you.

This course offers the opportunity for inquisitive individuals to discuss some of the ultimate questions facing humanity today, delving into key philosophical arguments from the views of Plato and Aristotle. It also questions God's existence, the problem of evil in the world and explores belief in relation to key atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Bertrand Russell and Freud. Students are encouraged to interact and take part in lessons through group and paired work but independent study is also crucial.

Most common questions asked:

1. Do you need to have a belief in God?

Absolutely not! Every class has a diverse mixture of students, some who believe in God, some who question God, some who do not believe in God and some who are just not sure. All students are interested in developing their views.

Everyone always has the chance to share their view and no one is ever told they are right or wrong. All students are supported in their views and are recommended to stay open minded so that one view does not dominate anyone else's perspective.

2. Do you learn about world religions?

The course is directed towards learning about different philosophers' views towards religion so it does not focus on world religions in general. One third of the course studies Christian Thought which focuses upon questioning, exploring and debating philosophically aspects within Christianity. Sometimes parallels are drawn between ideas contained within other religions, for example Hinduism and life after death.

3. What do you do in lessons?

Within most lessons a particular argument or philosopher is explored such as Aquinas and his views. The students then have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the arguments and work out any strengths and flaws based on their own opinions. We then work through activities and finally link the work to exam preparation.

4. Do you need to have done Religious Education at school

Absolutely not! As the course focuses on philosophers' views most students have never studied or even heard of most of the arguments...that's why it is so exciting! With this in mind, every lesson goes over the arguments slowly and there is always an opportunity to ask or answer questions. It is however recommended that you have a strong grasp of English as the exam is essay style answers and therefore there is often a lot of writing involved in class to prepare for this.

Are you thinking of taking any of these subjects in Sixth Form? Philosophy and Ethics compliments these courses very well.	Are you thinking about one of these professions? Philosophy and Ethics will support you in achieving this goal.
Sociology	Teacher
English Language	Doctor/ Nurse
History	Armed Forces
Psychology	Solicitor/ Law
Sciences	Police Officer

Many students go onto university to study Philosophy, Religious Studies or Theology. But often students now combine Philosophy and Ethics with many different subjects from Maths to Art to English. Furthermore, students studying Law, Criminology, Psychology and History at university have all found their philosophical and ethical studies useful.

Is this the right course for you? Have you seen any of these films?

- Matrix
- Inception
- Adjustment Bureau
- The Sixth Sense
- Harry Potter
- Star Wars
- The Narnia Chronicles

And asked questions such as: are there two different worlds? Are we really free? What really happens when we die? If so, then this course will delve into these ideas (and many more) to try and find answers to solve these questions.

For more information, do speak to a member of the RE department at St Julie's.