
RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND DEVELOPMENT IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

The Religious Education Department offers students the opportunity to study an A Level course in Philosophy, Ethics and Development in Christian Thought, following the OCR specification for Religious Studies. At the end of the two year course you will complete three 2 hour written examinations. Each of the three examination papers is worth 33.3% of the A Level.

Examining Board
OCR

Specification
Religious Studies 573

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE A LEVEL COURSE.

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

THE A LEVEL COURSE

Philosophy of religion (H573-01)

You will study:

- Ancient philosophical influences.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.
- Ideas about the nature of God.
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics (H573-02)

You will study:

- Normative ethical theories.
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance.
- Ethical thought and language.
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience.
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in Christian Thought (H573-03)

You will study:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority.
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within Christianity.
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

STUDENT VIEWPOINT

If you enjoy asking and discussing questions that do not seem to have an obvious answer then you will enjoy Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. It provides excellent training in developing relevant skills in thinking for yourself. It explores some of the most profound questions we can ask as human beings, questions that go right to the heart of our existence. You will need to avoid being too quick to jump to conclusions. You will need to think hard and be ready to be personally challenged.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

A Level Religious Studies fits into almost any combination. It is an extremely popular option with medical students as it teaches the essential elements of critical thinking and offers insight into the wider issues concerning medical ethics. It is also good to study alongside English, Psychology, Sociology, History, Government and Politics, Media, Geography and Business Studies.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

This subject can make a significant contribution to any job that requires to think clearly and rigorously. Students of this course go into Law, Politics, the Civil Service, Medicine, Personnel, Business and Journalism because they will have to learn how to think clearly and analytically. They will learn how to write well and to present their ideas logically and clearly. Medical students find the Ethics parts of the course to be an excellent preparation for some of the moral issues and dilemmas that they have to deal with in their future. This subject is also popular for students wishing to develop their understanding of religion in society and follow a university course or teaching career in Religious Education.