A Level Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (OCR)

Head of Department: Miss H Stedman

100% A*-B in 2026

You are encouraged to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. It is open to anyone with a commitment to intellectual inquiry, academic study and a willingness to engage with, understand and challenge arguments. This thought-provoking course is designed to develop your understanding of the modern world and establish a deeper knowledge and appreciation of world religious thought. The emphasis is on enabling you to respond critically and engage with a wealth of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts, equipping you with analytical skills that are readily transferable. Religion, Philosophy & Ethics is a recognised qualification for entry onto many academic courses in Higher Education.

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS & DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Year 12

1. Philosophy of Religion – this addresses the philosophical issues that arise from at tempts to describe and explain the nature of God, the evidence used to prove or disprove his existence, the problem for believers with the reality of evil, and the relationship between the mind, body and soul. Questions such as 'Is there life after death?' and 'What can we learn from religious experiences?'are also addressed.

2. Religion and Ethics – this addresses the issues of what we believe to be right and wrong and how and why we reach those judgments by exploring normative ethical theories such as Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism. These theories are then applied to two issues of importance: Euthanasia and Business Ethics, allowing you to explore contemporary issues and deepen your understanding of the ethical theories.

3. Developments in Religious Thought – in this component, you have the opportunity to undertake a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought. You will explore religious beliefs, values and teachings, the interconnection between moral principle and moral action, how they have developed historically and how they are presently discussed in relation to contemporary social issues

Year 13

1. Philosophy of Religion – In addition to Year 12 component 1, the focus shifts to the language used to express religious beliefs and values and the nature of God in Judeo-Christian thinking.

2. Religion and Ethics – In addition to Year 12 component 2, the focus is on the study of Ethical language. You will explore key concepts and the influence of key thinkers, you will study the idea of conscience and these will be applied to Sexual Ethics.

3. Developments in Religious Thought – In addition to Year 12 component 3, the focus shifts on to the challenge of secularism to Christianity, the consideration of religious pluralism and theology as well as religious pluralism and society and how some Christians have responded to secularism.

You are assessed by written examination in which you attempt essay-style questions.