

Studying Religious Studies (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)

Religious Studies at GCSE is primarily concerned with the study of religions, philosophy and contemporary moral issues. Pupils are expected to engage with subjects ranging from terrorism and war through to medical ethics, approaching these issues from a range of religious and non-religious perspectives. Critical thinking skills, empathy and an interest in current affairs are important, as is the ability to construct convincing arguments. This emphasis makes the subject an important one for those who wish to pursue careers in areas such as law, medicine and education.

The Course Content

The course will enable pupils to examine fundamental questions regarding the nature and existence of God, the value of human life and the impact of religion in the 21st century. It will provide an opportunity to apply religious and philosophical teachings to a variety of ethical problems, all of which have relevance to our everyday lives. Pupils will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of two major world religions (Christianity and Islam) through a study of the various beliefs, teachings and practices that are central to those traditions. Pupils will then be required to apply their knowledge of these beliefs and teachings to a range of moral and political issues such as abortion, euthanasia, war, crime and human relationships. The Philosophy of Religion component will involve pupils engaging with topics such as the traditional arguments for the existence of God, good and evil, and religion and science.

Pupils will be expected to develop their own ideas and defend them within the context of class debate and their written responses. Discussion forms a large part of most lessons and enables pupils to appreciate the broad spectrum of belief that is evident even within the confines of SCS. In their research, pupils are encouraged to draw from as many different sources as possible when forming a position on issues of moral and religious contention.

Assessment of the Course

Written Examination

100%

NEA/Coursework

No

The department follows the AQA Religious Studies Specification A (Study of Religions and Thematic Studies) GCSE. This course requires pupils to sit two examination papers at the end of their Fifth Year, each lasting one hour and 45 minutes.

Further Information

For further information, including details of the specification, please speak to Mr Swann or go to <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

