



SIXTH FORM

Religious Studies

WJEC
AS 2341/A2 3341



WHY CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

You should choose Religious Studies if you are interested in individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues.

This subject will give you the opportunity to look into the relationship between religion and culture, consider moral values and attitudes of individuals, faith communities and contemporary society. It will also help you to develop skills in reasoning on matters concerning values, attitudes and actions, and develop the ability to make responsible judgments on significant moral teaching and issues.

AS level Religious Studies would be a good choice for you if you are interested in this relationship between religion and society and the effect that religion has on individuals and groups within it. If you enjoy debating philosophical issues like the existence of God/ evil/ suffering then you will enjoy this subject.

HOW USEFUL WILL IT BE?

Religious Studies is a respected academic subject and is accepted and valuable when applying for a wide range of courses at colleges and universities.

Religious Studies is very useful in careers such as nursing, teaching, the police, social work, therapies and many more. This subject will also help you to reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes and encourage students to adopt an inquiring, critical and reflective approach to study and life in general. This particular course would compliment subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, Law, Media Studies and even Sciences.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

To study this subject you will need a minimum of five GCSE subjects at Grade A*-C. In order to be successful you will need to develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to your work.

You will reflect on and develop your own opinions and attitudes in light of what you have learned. You will also be able to identify, investigate and analyse questions and issues and be able to interpret and evaluate religious concepts, ideas, the relevance of arguments and the views of scholars.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 12 – THE AS LEVEL?

There are two main areas of study. The first, *Religion in Contemporary Society* deals with Medical and Environmental Issues, (euthanasia and animal rights) Religion and TV (Soap operas, *The Simpsons*, religion specific broadcasting and negative religious images), Religion and Community (secularisation, fundamentalism and new religious movements) and Religion and the Individual (Freud – religious belief as illusion and Jung – religion as a product of the ‘collective unconscious’).

The second area, *The Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* includes the following topics: The Existence of God (Cosmological/first cause and teleological/design arguments) Evil and Suffering and An introduction to Religious Experience: Mysticism.

HOW IS THE AS LEVEL ASSESSED?

There are two $1\frac{1}{4}$ exams at the end of the year. There is no course work component.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 13 – THE A2 LEVEL?

The A2 course is also divided into two areas. The first, Religion in Contemporary Society has four components. They are:

- 1) Contemporary Issues - this time looking at Religion and the State in the UK, the involvement of Religion in conflicts in the Middle East and the impact of these on communities in Britain.
- 2) Religion in Film - We look at how Religion is represented in film; at the ways film media convey religious and spiritual ideas; how film acts on the individual/collective to provoke a response to its contents and how film teaches us about religion.
- 3) Religion and the Community – We look at the definitions of Religion and investigate the functional understandings of Religion. We also look at Religious diversity arising from Religious and Cultural plurality.
- 4) Religion and the Individual – We investigate the effect of personality, gender, age and environment on religious belief and experience; look at religious belief and experience outside religious institutions “Believing without Belonging”; developmental theories of religion and theories relating to religion and psychological health.

The second unit is Religion and Human Experience. This is a compulsory unit. In the exam you will be required to write an essay on a specified aspect of Religious Authority or Religious Experience or Life, Death and Life after Death.

HOW IS THE A2 LEVEL ASSESSED?

Two $1\frac{3}{4}$ hour Written papers at the end of the year. There is no course work component.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU HAVE TO SPEND ON PRIVATE STUDY / RESEARCH?

AS Level: at least 4 hours per week.

A2 Level: at least 5 hours per week.

