

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES A-LEVEL

## (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course that familiarises students with the necessary skills and approaches to understand Philosophy & Ethics at a higher level.

### COURSE CONTENT:

- **Philosophy of religion**
  - ancient philosophical influences
  - 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
  - the nature of the soul, mind and body
  - the possibility of life after death
  - ideas about the nature of God
  - issues in religious language
- **Religion and ethics**
  - normative ethical theories
  - the application of ethical theory to euthanasia and business ethics.
  - ethical language and thought
  - debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will
  - Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion
- **Developments in religious thought**
  - 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 a tradition
  - significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
  - The effects of changing views of gender and gender roles
  - The rise of secularism and secularisation.

### ASSESSMENT:

- **Philosophy of religion**  
2-hour written paper 33.3% of total A-Level
- **Religion and ethics**  
2-hour written paper 33.3% of total A-Level
- **Developments in religious thought**  
2-hour written paper 33.3% of total A-Level

### FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

Students who take RE at A-Level go on to choose a wide variety of areas to study at Degree level or pursue as a career. Common options include; Philosophy, PPE, Sociology, Law, Medicine, Psychology, Criminology, History, Economics/Business, Art, Sport, Science, English, Theatre Studies/Media, Mathematics, Sciences, Geography and Languages.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

English GCSE Grade 5 and a Grade 5 at GCSE in Religious Studies.

