

# A Level Religious Studies

## What is Religious Studies?

R.S. is the study of Philosophy and Ethics, from both a religious and a non-religious viewpoint.

## Why take this course?

Because, you get to study questions like:

How do we decide what is right and wrong?

Should animals have rights?

Is the death penalty ever justified?

Where did the universe come from?

Can we use reason and logic to prove that God exists?

What are religious experiences? Are religious 'visions' caused by an existing God, or are they psychological fantasies?

What happens after death? Are near-death experiences evidence for the existence of souls?

## What makes a successful RS student?

You do **NOT** need to have studied RS at GCSE to do it at A-level.

You do **NOT** need to have any religious views to do it: it doesn't matter what you believe – RS teaches you how to defend your beliefs. So it requires good written and verbal communication skills. An enquiring mind is essential.

## To study this course, what qualifications will I need and in which subjects?

A grade 5 or above in English Language as the course is 100% exam based.

## What is the structure of the course?

Year 12	Year 13
<p><b>Section A: Philosophy of Religion</b> Arguments for the existence of God. Evil and suffering. Religious experience. Religious language. Miracles. Self and life after death.</p> <p><b>Section B: Ethics and Religion</b> Ethical theories. Issues of human life and death. Issues of animal life and death. Introduction to meta ethics. Free will and moral responsibility. Conscience. Bentham and Kant.</p>	<p><b>Section A: A Study of Religion</b> Sources of wisdom and authority. God/gods/ultimate reality. Self, death and the afterlife. Good conduct and key moral principles. Expression of religious identity. Religion, gender and sexuality. Religion and science. Religion and secularisation. Religion and religious pluralism.</p> <p><b>Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion</b> How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.</p> <p><b>Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion</b> How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.</p>
Assessment – Exam 3 Hours 50% of A Level	Assessment – Exam 3 Hours 50% of A Level

## What opportunities are there for me to study beyond the classroom?

The RS department has strong links with UEA Philosophy Department and local churches. Visits to the university and places of worship and lessons taught by external religious experts are organised.

## What kind of career does this subject/qualification prepare me for?

RS teaches the skills of argument and analysis. It is therefore a major access route into careers like: Law, Medicine, Business, Journalism, Dentistry, Nursing, Teaching, Lecturing, Accountancy, and so on: in fact to any career that involves argument and analysis. At degree level, RS is often taken with Philosophy, Business Studies, Accountancy and the Sciences, because it shows your ability to think, plan and evaluate – valuable assets for any career.