

## Theology

### Course Details

Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics are to some extent new topics to many of you, although you will be aware of elements of some of the aspects of study from your GCSE Religious Studies.



The **Philosophy of Religion** aspect will be very different from anything you have covered before and, in simple terms, it is the science of questioning and the answers scholars have explored regarding important issues throughout time.



**Religious Ethics** will be more familiar - you will recognise some of the ethical issues from GCSE RE - although it will also examine what helps us decide on moral issues and, indeed, what terms such as 'right' and 'wrong' actually mean.



**Developments in Christian Thought** will challenge you to examine and explore the message of the Gospels in a systematic and a contextually accurate manner.

The Religious Studies course helps students to develop a holistic understanding of religion and allows enquiry into, and supports insightful evaluation of, ultimate questions about the purposes and commitments of human life, especially as expressed in philosophy, ethics and religion.

### A-level Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical issues and questions
- The nature and influence of religious experience.
- Problems of evil and suffering.
- Philosophical language
- Works of scholars
- Influences of developments in religious belief

### A-Level Religious Ethics

- Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics
- Application of ethical theories of importance
- Ethical Language
- Deontology
- Virtue Ethics and the work of scholars
- Medical ethics
- Beginning and end of life issues
- Sexual Ethics

### A-Level Developments in Christian Thought

- Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament
- Texts and interpretation of the person of Jesus.
- Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship
- Ways of interpreting the scripture
- Texts and interpretation: the kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Scientific and historical critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars

## Assessment

There are three examinations to be completed at the end of Year 13. Each assessment is 2 hours in length and carry equal weight in regard to marks.

## Background Recommendations

It is recommended that candidates will have achieved at least a grade 6 in Religious Studies at GCSE. As the course is heavily literacy based it is also recommended that candidates will have also achieved at least a grade 6 in English Language.

## Skills Required

Candidates will be expected to 'read around' the topics covered and be prepared to work on essay writing and analytical skills, as well as questioning and debating skills.

## Extra-Curricular

There is usually at least one visit or conference per year, for example the Philosophy and Ethics Conference in Manchester and the Chester Ghost Tour.

## Future Career Prospects

The skills that Theology encourages will always be in high demand: the ability to think and write clearly, the ability to bring to light unnoticed presuppositions, to explain complex ideas clearly, to tease out connections and implications, to see things in a broader context, to challenge established ideas and to reflect on the nature of the world around us.

In short, Theology encourages the development of skills that will aid candidates in further education, is a subject that is highly regarded by Universities and that can be applied to any line of future employment.

## For More Information

Students interested in studying Religious Ethics and the Philosophy of religion, should contact the Head of Department or subject staff.

## Subject Staff

Mrs L Baillie BA (Hons), P.G.C.E

## Head of Department

Mrs L Baillie BA (Hons), P.G.C.E

## Syllabus

Religious Studies

## Current Exam Board

OCR

## Website

Further details of this course can be found on the exam boards' website.

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)



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