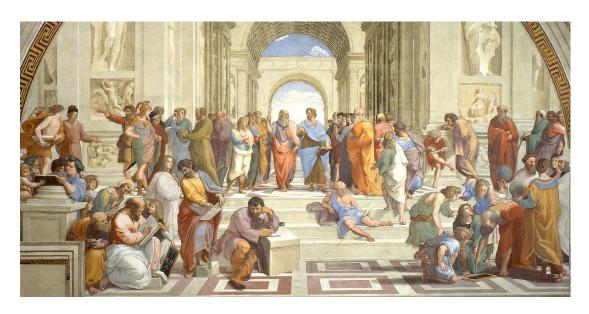
Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics and Theology)

Examination board: OCR



A Level Religious Studies is a fascinating, rigorous, academic subject that will hone a range of transferable skills including critical analysis, evaluation, synthesis and the ability to carry out independent research. You will be invited to consider a wide range of differing views and perspectives on human life, exploring key philosophical, ethical and theological ideas and concepts. The course allows for study of the work of key thinkers who have shaped western thought such as Freud, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Plato, Dawkins and many more! It is an exciting subject to study: the topics are always interesting and informative.

This is a popular A Level subject and pupils gain excellent results every year. It 'fits' with all A Levels and degree courses: it truly is a door opener to vast range of career choices. In recent years, pupils have studied A Level Religious Studies alongside a whole host of subjects: Maths, Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Psychology, Economics, Geography and Modern Languages to name but a few. Recent leavers have taken up degree courses in English, Law, Psychology, P.P.E., Medicine, Dentistry, Philosophy, Modern Languages, Anthropology, Engineering, Veterinary Science and even Mathematics! Those

reading Philosophy, RS and Theology have progressed to varied careers including the Civil Service, law, management, work with leading charities, and academia. KEHS leavers pursuing Theology, Philosophy and Ethics degree courses have recently studied at Oxford, Durham, Cambridge, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Leeds, Cardiff, Manchester, Kings (London) and UCL. Indeed, we have a 100% success rate of enabling Oxbridge applicants to study the subject at Oxford and Cambridge in recent years.

We teach the OCR specification (H573). This course incorporates the study of Ethics, Philosophy and Christianity. Assessment objectives include A01 (Knowledge and Understanding) and A02 (Analysis and Evaluation), with more weight placed on the latter (as this is worth 60% and the AO1 40%). There is no coursework or non-examination assessment.

The A Level course is divided equally into three sections; Philosophy; Ethics; and Christianity. These are broken down again into six equal sections as follows:

| Philosophy content | | Ethics content | | Christianity content | |
|--------------------|--|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | The theories of Plato and | 1. | Can human nature inform | 1. | Insight: Augustine's teaching on |
| | Aristotle. This looks at ideas | | people of what is right and | | human nature and teachings |
| | surrounding what it means to | | wrong? Should we show love to | | about death and the afterlife. |
| | be a human being? (i.e. do we | | other people? (Natural Moral | 2. | Foundations: Knowledge of |
| | have a soul or are we just a | | Law of Aquinas and Situation | | God's existence and the person |
| | physical body?). | | Ethics of Fletcher). | | of Jesus Christ. |
| 2. | Is it possible to prove God | 2. | Is it right to undertake an action | 3. | Living: Christian Moral |
| | exists? (Cosmological argument, | | because it brings us pleasure? | | principles and actions. |
| | the Ontological argument, the | | Should we always follow our | 4. | Development: religious |
| | argument from design and | | duties? (Utilitarianism and | | pluralism, theology and society. |
| | Religious Experience). | | Kantian Ethics). | 5. | Society: gender, society and |
| 3. | Does the existence of Evil mean | 3. | Should people be able to decide | | theology. |
| | that God does not exist? Do the | | when they die? (The application | 6. | Challenges: the challenges of |
| | advancements in science mean | | of Natural Moral Law and | | secularism, liberation theology |
| | God is no longer necessary? | | Situation Ethics to euthanasia). | | and Marx. |
| 4. | Who or what is God? Are we | | Can a business ever be ethical? | | |
| | free? Can we be free if God | | (The application of Kantian | | |
| | exists? | | Ethics and Utilitarianism to | | |
| 5. | Pre-20 th Century ideas | | business ethics). | | |
| | surrounding religious language. | 4. | Meta-ethical theories. | | |
| 6. | 20 th ideas surrounding religious | 5. | What is the Conscience? Can it | | |
| | language. | | only be from God? Can it tell us | | |
| | | | what is good? | | |
| | | 6. | Should sexual relations only | | |
| | | | ever take place within a | | |
| | | | heterosexual marriage? (The | | |
| | | | application of Situation Ethics, | | |
| | | | Utilitarianism, Natural Moral | | |
| | | | Law and Kantian ethics to | | |
| | | | sexual ethics). | | |

Assessment is through three written examinations, each lasting two hours. One paper will be on the Philosophy of Religion, another on Ethics and the final one on Christianity. The examinations are essay based. There is a choice of four essay questions in total on each paper; each candidate must answer three out of these four.

To develop and enrich the pupils' understanding of the content, extension lessons are offered each week. They involve a range of activities, including the opportunity to hear from visiting academic speakers, discussions surrounding the analysis of key philosophical texts and opportunities for questioning which stretches and challenges the thinking of the pupils. We also invite pupils to participate in the

regional round of the schools' Philosothon. Other opportunities for extension occur through the trips. These include attending the A Level Candle conferences and the visit to Cadbury World, where we learn more about ethical business practices.