

Religious Studies A level

Curriculum content

	<u>YEAR 12 COURSE</u>	<u>YEAR 13 COURSE</u>
<p><u>Autumn 1</u></p> <p><u>PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION</u></p>	<p><u>Arguments for God:</u></p> <p>1. A priori, deductive: Ontological: Anselm, Descartes, Gaunilo, Kant, Aquinas.</p> <p>2. A posteriori, inductive: Cosmological, from contingency and necessity: Aquinas, Russell, Hume, Coplestone.</p> <p>3. A posteriori inductive: Design, from analogy: Paley, Hume, Swinburne.</p> <p>The status of the arguments as proof</p> <p>The relationship between faith and reason: fides et ratio/fideism/Kierkegaard</p>	<p>Kant 's Categorical Imperative</p> <p>Bentham's Utilitarianism</p> <p><u>Miracles</u>, with reference to realism, anti-realism, Hume, Wiles, Holland and Swinburne.</p> <p><u>Religious Language</u>, with reference to Aquinas, Tillich, Via Negative, Hare's Bliks, Wittgenstein's Language Game Theory, Logical Positivism, Verification Principle, Flew's Falsification Principle, Hick's Eschatological Verification.</p> <p><u>Self, Death and afterlife</u>, including substance dualism (Descartes), Hick's replica theory and monism.</p>
<p><u>Autumn 2</u></p> <p><u>PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION AND</u></p> <p><u>THEOLOGY</u></p>	<p><u>The problem of evil and suffering:</u></p> <p>The logical problem- Hume/Mackie</p> <p>The evidential problem - Rowe</p> <p>Swinburne's Free Will Defence</p> <p>Hick's Vale of Soul-Making theodicy</p> <p>Process Theodicy - Griffin</p> <p><u>Religious experience:</u></p> <p>Visions – Augustine/Avila/Julian of Norwich/Mysticism – James/Stace/The numinous – Otto 'The Idea of the Holy'. Principles of Credulity and Testimony – Swinburne.</p> <p>Objections from science and philosophy.</p>	<p><u>CHRISTIANITY AND GENDER AND SEXUALITY</u>, with reference to the ordination of women as priests and bishops, feminist theology (Hampson and Radford-Reuther), celibacy, marriage, homosexuality and transgender issues.</p> <p><u>CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE</u>, with reference to Christian responses to Darwinism in nineteenth century, contemporary responses to Big Bang, creationism, God of the gaps theory, the theology of John Polkinghorne and responses to genetic engineering.</p>

<p><u>Spring 1</u></p> <p><u>THEOLOGY</u></p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>Sources of authority (Bible/Church/Jesus)</p> <p>The nature of God(creator/Trinity/King etc)</p> <p>Death and the afterlife (resurrection, purgatory, Heaven, Hell).</p>	<p><u>CHRISTIANITY AND SECULARISM,</u> with reference to religious responses to challenges from atheism, humanism, McGrath’s responses to Dawkins, Fresh Expressions, liberationists strands of Christianity.</p> <p><u>CHRISTIANITY AND PLURALISM,</u> with reference to exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism (Hick)</p>
<p><u>Spring 2</u></p> <p><u>THEOLOGY AND ETHICS</u></p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>Moral conduct (embryo/euthanasia/</p> <p>Religious identity(baptism/eucharist/mission)</p> <p><u>Ethics:</u></p> <p>Natural Law – Aquinas/Hoose/Finnis</p>	<p>DIALOGUES AND ETHICS</p> <p>DIALOGUES AND PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>REVISION OF YR 12 CONTENT</p>
<p><u>Summer 1</u></p> <p><u>ETHICS</u></p>	<p>Situation Ethics – Fletcher</p> <p>Virtue Ethics – Aristotle</p> <p>Application of normative theories to issues concerning human and non-human animals.</p>	
<p><u>Summer 2</u></p> <p><u>ETHICS</u></p>	<p><u>Meta-ethics:</u></p> <p>Right and wrong/good and bad with reference to: Divine Command Theory: Barth/</p> <p>Naturalism: Utilitarianism: Bentham/Kant/Singer/Non-naturalism: Intuitionism: G E Moore Free Will and Moral Responsibility: Hard Determinism/ Libertarianism /Compatibilism</p> <p>Conscience: Aquinas/Fletcher/Butler/Freud/Newman/Piaget/Kohlberg</p>	

Skills

This course aims to help students to:

- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion, philosophy and ethics
- develop an understanding and appreciation of the diversity within the field of religious, philosophical and ethical thought, and the impact these schools of thought have on individuals, communities and societies, past and present
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the examination of varied truth claims espoused by religion, philosophy and ethics
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study
- develop effective memory and recall strategies to support examination preparation
- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world

Assessment

Internal assessment takes place throughout the course, and is always in the form of exam questions. For the award of the qualification, this linear A Level from AQA is examined entirely by examination at the end of Year 13. There are two 3-hour final examination papers:

Paper 1 – Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Paper 2 – Christianity and Dialogues