

# Religious Studies

**Level: A Level**

**Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas**

**Entry Requirement**

GCSE RMS - Level 5

## **In Year 12:**

**Unit 1:** Christianity: This unit will focus on studying the core beliefs and traditions within Christianity and searching for their origins. It explores the wide range of diversity within the religion by looking at the different fundamental and liberal beliefs held by some Christians. Examples of this are the different views on the nature of God (Is God a man or woman?) or the different views on the validity of the Bible (Is it truth or written for a hidden purpose?).

**Unit 2:** Philosophy: This unit is designed to challenge the most fundamental aspects of religion and faith. Does God exist and can we actually prove this? We look at a range of philosophers from the ancient Greeks such as Plato, Aristotle and Socrates, to modern scholars such as Richard Swinburne and Richard Dawkins.

**Unit 3:** Ethics: This is a look into how people make moral decisions. We look at modern theories of Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics and older more traditional ideas such as Natural Law. Through rigorous debate, we attempt to apply these theories to modern ethical dilemmas such as euthanasia, stem cell research and adultery.

## **In Year 13:**

**Unit 1:** Christianity: At this level the unit examines the depths of what it means to be Christian. The unit covers the history and diversity of Christianity from the early Church started by the 12 disciples, right up to how it has spread into modern day British society. We look at how Christianity has been influenced by developments within society including challenges from science and secularism and new concepts of wealth and equality.

**Unit 2:** Philosophy: At this level the philosophy unit once again goes deeper into the ideas of the metaphysical. We assess the validity of religious belief including religious experiences and mysticism. We debate theories of philosophers such as William James and Immanuel Kant to attempt to once and for all answer the question; is it reasonable to believe in the existence of God?

**Unit 3:** Ethics: At this level we assess the nature of ethical decision making and attempt to discover if we are at all free to make decisions for ourselves. We will evaluate if the language we have to explain morality is actually useful and if we should listen to our own conscience or submit to the morals of a divine creator (God).

## **Assessment**

### **A Level Exam:**

**Units 1-3:** 3 Examined Essay Papers combining AS and A2 knowledge, understanding and evaluation. (2 hours each)

## **The Future**

The study of Religious Studies is useful for any field requiring written or verbal communication skills. It is also great for building up logical thinking patterns and problem solving. It is particularly useful for careers in law, civil service, journalism, personnel management, public relations, social work, police force, media and many more.

## **Further information**

Mr A Sheriff-Vickers, Deputy Leader of Humanities