

Religious Studies: Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

Awarding Body: OCR

Course entry requirement: English GCSE grade 5 or above. Preferably (but not a requirement) grade 5 or above in Religious Studies GCSE

AS / Year 1 - H173

Philosophy of Religion (H173/01)

- ancient philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- the nature and impact of religious experience
- the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil

Ethics and religion (H173/02)

- Natural law
- Situation ethics
- Kantian ethics
- Utilitarianism
- Euthanasia
- Business Ethics

Developments in Christian thought (H173/03)

- The person of Jesus Christ
- Christian moral principles
- Christian moral action (a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- Augustine' teaching on human nature
- Death and the after life
- Knowledge of God

How it's assessed

All units are assessed through a separate written exam, each of 1 hour 15 minutes duration (60 marks each) and each worth 33.3% of AS.

A2 / Year 2 - H573 (new content only is listed)

Philosophy of Religion (H573/01)

- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language

Ethics and Religion (H573/02)

- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Developments in religious thought (H573/03)

- Liberation theology and Marxism
- The issue of Gender in Society and Theology
- The issue of pluralism in Society and Theology
- The Challenge of Secularisation

How it's assessed

All units are assessed through a separate written exam, each of 2 hours duration (120 marks each) and each worth 33.3% of A2.

Course description and what is like.

Students study three elements for their A level – taught by three different teachers who specialise in their areas. Students are taught to think critically, and justify opinions, offering evidence for their points of view. Content is varied and challenging. The course builds superbly on the Eduqas GCSE in Religious Studies which provides students with a good introduction to the content and skills of 'A' level Philosophy, Theology and Ethics.

Career Prospects

It develops a wide range of skills including those needed for enquiry, evaluation and communication. For potential employers, the broad study of this subject and its balance of literacy and inter-personal skills make it an ideal foundation for the recruitment of students to managerial positions. Possible career paths include law, broadcasting, journalism, publishing, teaching, and social work.