

Link to exam board specification:

[AS and A Level - Religious Studies - H173, H573 - OCR](#)

Course Overview:

This specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Acquire knowledge and ethical understanding to evaluate a range of current events.
- Develop their critical thinking skills to analyse a range.
- Use evidence to make reasoned arguments on societal issues.

Areas of Study:

Students will learn about:

Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind, and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil

Normative Ethics

- normative ethical theories (Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics)
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience.
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in religious thought

- religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition.
- significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought

Course Requirements:

Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics.

Where can this course take me?

The top five-degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Religious Studies are Philosophy, Law, Sociology, History, Politics. Studying philosophy is an excellent choice for people who are considering careers in journalism, medicine, teaching, charity work, police officer, youth worker and many other career paths.

Year 12:

- A Range of Philosophers from Greek Antiquity.
- Contrasting Arguments About the Existence (or not) of God.
- The Development of Philosophy and Theology.
- Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism.

Year 13:

- Human Mind and Reasoning.
- Ethical Thought and the Influence on Society.
- The Origins and Beliefs of Islam.
- The Islam Journey Towards 'Spiritual Perfection'.
- The political Nature of Islam.