



# Religious Studies

Exam board: Eduqas  
Specification no: 601/8700/1 A Level/ 601/8771/2

AS

Link to the specification:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/i4tjifbc/eduqas-a-level-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e-011020.pdf>

## Religious Studies

**This is a two year linear A level course** - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

### AS level

Module	Assessment	%
A Study of Christianity	1 hour 30 mins exam	33.33%
Philosophy of Religion	1 hour 30 mins exam	33.33%
Religion and Ethics	1 hour 30mins exam	33.33%

### A level

Module	Assessment	%
A Study of Christianity	2 hour exam	33.33%
Philosophy of Religion	2 hour exam	33.33%
Religion and Ethics	2 hour exam	33.33%

### Course Delivery:

Religious Studies A level involves significant amounts of group work and class discussion within lessons. Students will often be given material from newspapers, books and websites to read and respond to, or their own research to do, and so the ability to read extended pieces of writing is needed. Homework tasks will often include structured written tasks or extended written answers as well as reading, research and the preparation of learning aids. Students will make presentations to the group on topics that they have researched.

### Course Content:

All students will complete a study of Ethics, Philosophy of Religion and A Study of Christianity.

### Unit 1: A Study of Christianity

This unit is not just for those who have a Christian faith and are familiar with the New Testament! This aspect of the course utilises lots of disciplines such as historical research, sociological investigation and interpretation of sacred texts.

This unit studies:

- The importance of religious figures- looking at the birth and resurrection of Jesus and different interpretations amongst theologians as to whether Jesus was the messiah or a social revolutionary
- How the Bible is used as a source of wisdom for Christians in day to day life
- The early church and the establishment of Christianity as an organised religious group
- Key concepts and questions: Is God male? Can God suffer?
- Attitudes towards wealth, Migration and Christianity in the UK
- Religion, Equality and Discrimination
- Relationships between Christianity and modern society
- Diversity in expressions of Christian worship
- Religious Experience
- Religious responses to poverty and injustice

This course presumes no beliefs or views of religion and is engaging for students of any faith or none.

### **Unit 2: Philosophy of Religion**

The Philosophy of Religion unit takes you through many of the biggest questions related to religion. We will be looking at all aspects of the different issues and developing skills of research and evaluation of the different arguments. The unit looks at philosophers from history and from today's world so you get a broad overview of modern and historical perspectives across the different topics.

### **Unit 3: Religion and Ethics**

The Religion and Ethics module takes an in depth look at morality and moral behaviour. We will look at famous thinkers who have sought to consider how people should act and why they should act that way. We will also look at a wide range of modern ethical questions and consider how different religious groups respond to many of the complicated ethical questions of our time from euthanasia to climate change to just war. This unit allows for plenty of debate and grounds your learning in practical discussions on issues affecting our world today.

### **Entry requirements:**

If the subject is taken at GCSE it should be passed at 5 or above and at least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6.

### **Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:**

Students will need the ability to listen to and understand a range of viewpoints on an issue, to demonstrate empathy for different people's beliefs and experiences, and to rationally analyse issues. No personal faith or religious belief is presumed and no marks are given for what the candidate actually thinks but rather for the arguments which can be presented in support of any view they choose to take. Students will increasingly develop confidence in making presentations and in debating rationally with those who take different views to their own. They will leave the course with a broader awareness of many of the most significant challenges facing our society and with a sensitive awareness of the meaning of faith in a multi-religious society.

### **Resources:**

The RE department is well resourced with text-books and video material and has contacts in many religious groups and organisations from which guest speakers are invited. Students attend regional or national conferences when available.

### **Recommended reading / websites:**

Raeper / Smith : The Beginners Guide to Ideas (Lion, 1991)

Vardy / Grosch : The Puzzle of Ethics (Fount, 1999)

M.Thompson : Religion and Science (Hodder, 1999)

<http://philtar.ucsm.ac.uk/>

<http://www.rsweb.org.uk>

.For Further Information: Contact Mr P Noyce, Head of RE

[noycep@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:noycep@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

Telephone: 0117 353 2073

Email: [6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

[www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

