



Key Stage 5 Years 12 and 13

A Level Religious Education – Philosophy and Ethics

Introduction and Overview

Students who opt for A Level Religious Studies follow a two year programme from the OCR exam board; we cover the modules Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics.

AS Topics:

- Ancient Greek Influences on the philosophy of religion
- Judaeo-Christian influences on the philosophy of religion
- Traditional arguments for the existence of God
- Challenges to religious belief
- Ethical theories
- Applied ethics topics (Abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, war and peace)

A2 Topics:

- Religious language
- Experience and religion
- Nature of God
- Life and death
- Miracle
- Meta-ethics
- Free will and determinism
- Conscience
- Virtue ethics
- Applied ethics topics (Environment, business, sexual ethics)

How to support your child

- Encourage your child to talk about the topics they are studying and engage in healthy debate.
- Encourage your child to watch/read the news and stay up to date with current affairs.
- Encourage your child to justify their views and opinions and consider another point of view.
- Encourage your child to spend additional time reading and consolidating class notes.
- Encourage your child to read around the subject.

Web Links

- <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h172-h572/>
- <http://www.rsrevision.com/>
- <https://www.philosophicalinvestigations.co.uk/>

Additional Reading

Provided textbooks:

- Understanding Philosophy of Religion for AS & A2 (OCR), Libby Ahluwalia, ISBN 978-1850082767
- Understanding Religious Ethics for AS & A2 (OCR), Richard Wright, ISBN 978-1850085256

Suggested additional reading:

- An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion, Brian Davies, ISBN 978-0199263479
- The Puzzle of Ethics, Peter Vardy, ISBN 978-0006281443
- The Puzzle of God, Peter Vardy, ISBN 978-0006281436
- Ethical Theory, Mel Thompson, ISBN 978-0340883440