



RELIGIOUS STUDIES PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGION

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR CHAMBERLAIN

SPECIFICATION: H573
QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL

Religious Studies, encompassing Philosophy, Ethics and Theology, engages students with the wider, unanswered questions surrounding mankind's existence and the myriad roles of belief systems throughout centuries of cultural history.

During this course you will learn how to critically analyse, construct arguments, skilfully debate and write with clarity and purpose to build an excellent platform for future studies and employment with a wide extent of transferable skills.

This course is a linear A-Level, which means that it has been designed to be taught continuously over the length of the course (two years). This course can only be studied as an A-Level.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Ancient philosophical influences (Plato and Aristotle)

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

The nature of the soul, mind and body

RELIGION AND ETHICS

Normative ethical theories (the study of ethical action); Natural Law, Situation ethics, Kantian ethics, Utilitarianism

The application of ethical theory to euthanasia and business ethics



DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

St Augustine and human nature

Death and the afterlife

Election

Knowledge of God's existence

The person of Jesus Christ

Christian moral principles

Christian moral action

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN THE UPPER SIXTH

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

The possibility of life after death

Ideas about the nature of God

Issues in religious language

RELIGION AND ETHICS

Ethical language and thought (what do we mean by right and wrong?)

Debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will

The influence on ethical thought and its developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion

The application of ethical theory to sexual ethics

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Religious pluralism and theology

Religious pluralism and society

Gender and society

Gender and theology

The challenge of secularism

Liberation theology and Marx

Issues in religious language



WHERE WILL AN A-LEVEL IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES TAKE YOU?

Our students enjoy the subject for its own sake, relishing in the opportunity to immerse themselves in deep philosophical, ethical and theological debate. For some students Religious Studies is a natural choice because it complements other areas of chosen study such as Psychology, History, English and Economics. Others find the study of logic through Philosophy a particular draw, complementing their studies Mathematics or the Sciences. A large number of our students go on to study Philosophy or Theology as well as a wide range of other degrees including Medicine, PPE, Law, Journalism, Business, Management, Accounting and Finance to Marketing, Public Relations, Criminology, and Psychology.

Students who have studied this A-Level have commented on how the discussions in class and the analytical skills acquired have helped them in their university interviews and opened doors to future careers.

EXTENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to read widely around the subject. In particular, to develop a deeper understanding of key scholars and their philosophy/theology to support their understanding of their contribution to different parts of the course.

TOP-LEVEL FACILITIES

Religious studies is taught in purpose-built rooms equipped with a wide range of resources including wider reading texts and stunning views. Our Chapel is an excellent resource and visited regularly by our Sixth Form students.

WHY STUDY THIS AT TRURO SCHOOL?

Outstanding teachers who are specialists in their field and a strong track record of supporting students to achieve success at A-Level

Enjoy developing your critical thinking skills through disciplined, logical, reason-based debate and discussion

The opportunity to attend national conferences led by distinguished academics in the field of theology, philosophy and ethics

We promote a strong emphasis on academic achievement. Truro School has an excellent track record of students going on to read Philosophy, Law, Politics, and Theology at top universities



TRIPS, VISITS AND FIELD WORK

Every year we host an A-Level Religious Studies day with an academic who delivers engaging seminars on aspects of the A-Level course. In recent years guest speakers have include Dr Peter Vardy, Dr Robert Bowie and Peter Baron.

Annually we attend Candle Conferences, led by Dr Vardy, to develop further subject knowledge and engage in meaningful debate about the A-Level topics studied. We are fortunate to have Truro Cathedral close by and ensure that we visit with our Lower Sixth to explore Christian belief in practice.