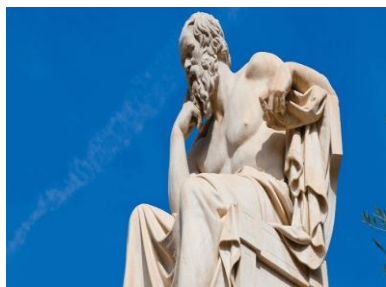


Religion and
Philosophy



Exam Board
AQA

Syllabus number
7061



King's
School

*“The mystical is not HOW the world is, but
THAT it is.”*

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or Grade 5 in English Lang if Religious Studies has not been taken.

Why should I study religion and philosophy?

Religion and philosophy is a thought-provoking subject that analyses the nature of reality. Philosophy literally means a love of wisdom and is a quest for truth and knowledge, an ability to distinguish between doxa (opinion) and episteme (knowledge). It examines the three Rs of what is real (metaphysics), what is right (ethics) and what is rational and reasonable belief. The subject is highly respected by universities and colleges, and it develops key skills of analysis and enquiry which are transferable across many subjects. The addition of the 'science' element of the course makes it a really good option for those who are interested in the scientific subjects but need or want some variety - bear in mind universities and colleges look favourably on having some variety in A Level studies! It also goes well with other social sciences or humanities subjects such as psychology, history, sociology, and geography.

What does the course look like?

Three written exam papers of equal weighting.

Philosophy of religion

- 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
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and ethics

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant.

Developments in Religious Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

How will I learn?

The course features a wide range of teaching and learning approaches and methods, from interactive classroom study, group tasks and debates to private study and research.

What kind of things might the subject lead me to?

The skills developed within religion and philosophy are transferable as it encourages critical thinking, problem solving and the ability to form your own opinion founded in a strong, logical rationale. These skills will be valued by business, medicine, and the legal professions alike – not to mention academia. Or, more directly, your course could lead you into degree areas like philosophy, politics, and ethics (PPE), theology or any joint honours courses where these are a component.