



Kimberley
School

A Level
**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**

SIXTH FORM
HUMANITIES

What is 'Religious Studies'?

Religious Studies comprises of three components: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics, and Development of Christian Thought.

Philosophy grapples with the big questions of life: Where did the universe come from, does a higher being exist, where does evil come from.

Ethics looks at morality and how to make good decisions e.g. surrounding euthanasia, business, sexuality.

Development of Christian thought explores issues of sin, feminism, liberation theology and discusses figures such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who is it for?

Religious Studies students will be interested in exploring great questions and baffling concepts, discussing theories and critically analysing academic thought!

In Religious Studies you develop skills in:

Research and presentations,

Problem solving and synthesising information

Organisation and time management

Writing, referencing, constructing academic arguments

Independent thought and empathy for others

You could apply for jobs in:

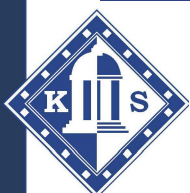
Education, law, business, charity, journalism, advertising, medicine and many more!

What will I study?

In Philosophy of Religion learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. They will also explore philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in the philosophy of religion.

Religion and Ethics is characterised by the study of ethical language and thought, with exploration of key concepts and the works of influential thinkers. Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance; namely euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

Developments in Christian Thought provides an opportunity for the systematic study of Christianity. This will include the exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity, as well as sources of wisdom and authority. Also central are the ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.



The course is made up of:

Component 1: PHILOSOPHY

- o Ancient Greek influences on philosophy
- o Nature of the soul, mind and body
- o Arguments for and against the existence of God
- o Religious experiences
- o The problem of evil
- o Ideas about the nature of God
- o Issues in religious language

Component 2: ETHICS

- o Religious normative ethical theories – Natural Law and Situation Ethics
- o Secular normative ethical theories – Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism
- o Application of theories to euthanasia, business and sexual ethics
- o Meta Ethics
- o Conscience

Component 3: DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

- o Augustine on human nature and sin
- o Death and the Afterlife
- o Knowledge of God's existence
- o The Person of Jesus Christ
- o Christian moral principles and Action (Bonhoeffer)
- o Religious pluralism
- o Religion and gender
- o Liberation Theology and Marx

How will I be assessed?

PHILOSOPHY

2 hour written
paper.
33.3% of A Level

+

ETHICS

2 hour written
paper.
33.3% of A Level

+

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

2 hour written
paper.
33.3% of A Level

See Miss Fletcher
for further details on the course

Download the specification from www.ocr.org.uk

