

A Level

Religious Studies

Edexcel



If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

Course Content

The RS course comprises of three units: Ethics, Buddhism and Philosophy of Religion:

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at A* - C including English and Maths plus if you have taken Religious Studies GCSE you need to have achieved at least a Grade C.

What will I be studying?

Year 1

Buddhism: The life and historical background of the Buddha, The Four Noble Truths, The Three Marks of Existence, The Three Refuges, The Five Precepts and the significance of the Pali-cannon and the distinctive practices of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.

The Philosophy of Religion: The Design Argument, The Ontological Argument, The nature of Religious Experience and The problem of evil and suffering.

Ethics: Environmental Ethics, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Moral Law, War and Peace, and Sexual Ethics.

Year 2

Buddhism: The Spread of Buddhism to China and Japan with specific reference to Pure Land and Zen Buddhism, Buddhism in the West with reference to Friends of The Western Buddhist Order, The Role of Women in Buddhism and the Bodhisattva Doctrine in the Mahayana Tradition

The Philosophy of Religion: Religious Language, Life after Death and Religion and Science.

Ethics: Ethical Language, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, and Medical Ethics with a focus on the beginning and end of life.

Key works from scholars will be addressed in all of the areas.



Assessment for AS Option

Three 1 hour papers on each area, questions will comprise of four short structured questions and two essay questions.

Assessment for A Level Option

Three two hour papers, where students answer three short structured questions, two extended responses to unseen passage and a choice of two extended essay questions.

Religious Studies

Methods of Teaching

The approach to teaching and learning is student centred and the teachers use a variety of tasks and differentiation strategies. There will also be the opportunity to develop independent study through study packages and resource based learning

Financial Implications

Key texts will be provided by the department for use in lessons, however a reading list will be provided and it is recommended that at least two of these books are purchased. Research information will also be available for essay writing. The college has a Student Support Fund for those students who have difficulty meeting these costs.

Career possibilities

This Advanced level qualification is an excellent Humanities qualification and will help gain entry into a wide range of Higher Education courses. Many of the skills developed through the course will relate to a wide range of careers, such as the Travel Industry, Public Relations, Journalism, TV and Radio, Police work, Medicine, Teaching and jobs where the management of people is important.

As an Advanced level subject, R.S. links well with most other disciplines particularly in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Trips

The RS department has run several trips to India, Thailand and Cambodia and will be continuing with these ventures in 2017 with another experience.

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at Grades A* - C including Maths and English.

If you have taken Religious Studies GCSE you will need to have achieved at least a Grade C.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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