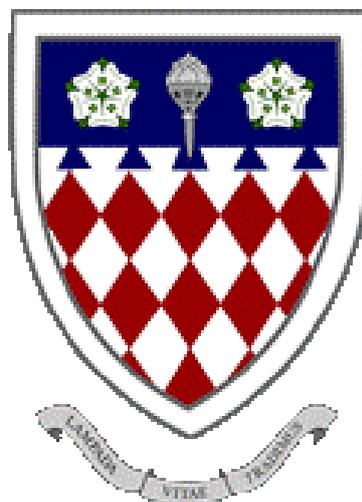


Spalding High School  
Sixth Form

A Level  
Religious  
Studies



## Why Choose A Level Religious Studies?

- Are you interested in questions of right and wrong and how such matters might be decided?
- Does our sense of morality stem from God or is there another explanation for conscience?
- Are you interested in moral issues such as euthanasia, sexual ethics and business ethics?
- Would you enjoy examining arguments for God's existence e.g. the first cause argument, the Christian design argument and the argument from religious experience?
- To what extent does the problem of evil pose a challenge to God's existence?
- Should a Christian ever use violence to overcome injustice in the world?
- What does The Bible say about the person of Christ?

***If you are interested in any of these questions, then Religious Studies could be for you.***

Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced/informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

**NOTE:** No commitment to any of the Christian churches or any other faiths is presupposed or required. The syllabus is open to candidates of any religious persuasion or none.

## What career paths might I follow with A Level Religious Studies?

The Religious Studies course equips students with many transferable skills, making it applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the course develops critical thinking skills and the ability to analyse the effectiveness of arguments. It also encourages students to articulate their own points of view and engage in lively debates with others.

Students learn to appreciate the viewpoints of others and gain an understanding of how religion still has an impact on modern society. It is an academically rigorous A Level course suited to many career paths, including careers in teaching, law, and the social sciences.

## What is the content of the course and how is it assessed?

The A Level course is divided into three components which are as follows:- Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. A third of the course now requires a traditional study of one religion. The religion chosen is Christianity.

Each paper is worth 33.3% of the overall mark and is assessed by three examination papers of two hours each. There is no coursework for this subject.

Some of the topics studied for each unit are outlined below:-

### Philosophy of Religion

- the ideas of the ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle
- the mind body problem – how effective are arguments in favour of humans having an immortal soul or mind?
- arguments for God's existence and challenges to them
- the nature and impact of religious experience
- the challenge for religious believers of the problem of evil and suffering.

### Religion and Ethics

- the views of Immanuel Kant, Thomas Aquinas, John Stuart Mill, and Joseph Fletcher in relation to making moral decisions
- conscience – the views of Thomas Aquinas and the atheist Freud
- euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics, including pre-marital sex, adultery and homosexuality .

### Developments in Christian Thought

- Christian beliefs about the afterlife including heaven, hell and purgatory
- the person of Christ as portrayed in The Bible
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer – a Christian who died attempting to kill Hitler
- Differing Christian views about who will be saved
- Christian views regarding the roles of men and women.

## What do our students say about A Level Religious Studies...

*"I really enjoyed learning about ancient Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle."*

*"It has helped me with other subjects such as English and History".*

*"My favourite topics were the problem of evil, sexual ethics and religious experiences."*

*"My teachers are very supportive and I felt I could approach them for help and advice."*

*"The revision sessions helped me a lot".*

## **Specification**

Exam Board— OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

## **Entry requirements**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Religious Studies

If not studied previously at least GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature

*For further details please contact*

**Miss McArthur**

**Mrs Waldron**

**Mrs Cave**

**Spalding High School, Stonegate, Spalding, PE11 2PJ**

**01775 722110**

**[enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)**