

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course Length:	Studied over two years
Examination Board:	AQA
Course Leader:	Mr N McGarrigle (mcgarrigle@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Course Content

The topics studied are:

Year 12

Religion and Ethics

Ethics is the study of ideas surrounding 'right and wrong'. In this paper students will explore the key moral principles and values that underline Christian identity. From this foundation, students will also critically explore other key ethical theories (both religious and non-religious) as they apply them to complex and often emotive issues surrounding human life and death, as well as also applying them to issues surrounding animal welfare.

Religion and Philosophy

Here, students will study Christian philosophical concepts surrounding God and beliefs about life after death. Students will then progress to explore further key philosophical arguments surrounding the existence of God, religious experiences, and evil and suffering.

Year 13

A-Level students continue to explore new areas of religious studies, philosophy and ethics in an A-Level which is designed to challenge and yet offer a structured approach to the final examination.

Religion and Ethics

Students will continue to develop their understanding of complex issues surrounding Christianity and sexual identity, as well as assessing the effects of religious pluralism on core Christian principles and values. From here, students will progress to critically evaluate additional significant ethical theories (Bentham and Kant), study meta-ethics (the meaning of ethical language), exploring concepts of conscience, and finally analyse arguments surrounding freewill/determinism.

Religion and Philosophy

Students will continue to explore complex philosophical arguments drawing upon the challenges to Christian belief from scientific advancement, and the nature and role of Christianity in modern society. They will also critically analyse the philosophical and religious challenges of miracles, religious language and the idea of 'self' in relation to life after death.

Additional Information

Religious Studies is a popular and very successful A-Level at QEGS. Past students have gone on to study at many of the top Universities and to use their knowledge in a variety of careers ranging from Medicine, Law, and Finance right through to the Police Service and the Armed Forces.

It is recommended that students have an interest in current affairs as they are regularly used to enrich their learning experiences through applying them to philosophical, ethical and religious ideas.

There are regular practice essays to support students in developing their exam skills, plus regular lively debates and discussions as we explore these fascinating and often contentious topics.

We recommend that if you are considering beginning this course, you should try reading one of the following books:

- Jostein Gardner – Sophie's World
- Peter Vardy – The Puzzle of God/Ethics/Sex
- Mel Thompson – Teach Yourself the Philosophy of Religion/Ethics

Assessment

Unit No	Title	Assessment	A Level
C1	Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics	3 hour Exam in Yr13	50%
C2	Component 2: Study of Religion and Dialogues	3 hour Exam in Yr13	50%