

Religious Studies

EDUQAS Specification



General information:

In every step of your studies and careers you will be involved in decision making whether you lean towards the Sciences or the Arts. Philosophy and Theology enables you to understand your colleague's and your opponent's ways of thinking. It helps with skills such as communication, critical thinking, working with others and problem solving. It enables you to be one step ahead of the game. It gives you the advantage.

Course content:

In Year 12, the Philosophy course covers topics such as: Inductive and Deductive arguments for the existence of God; The Problem of Evil and Suffering and Religious Experience. The Ethics course covers topics such as: Ethical thought; Natural Law; Situation ethics and Utilitarianism. The Christianity course covers topics such as: Religious figures and sacred texts; Religious concepts; Religious life and Religious practices that shape religious identity.

In Year 13, the course goes deeper, covering, in Philosophy: Challenges to Religious Belief; Religious Experience (part 2); Miracles and Religious Language. In Ethics, the course covers: Meta-Ethics; Natural Law (part 2); Determinism and Freewill. The Christianity course covers topics such as: Religious figures and sacred texts (part 2); Significant social developments in religious thought; Significant historical developments in religious thought and Religious practices that shape religious identity (part 2).

How is the course taught and assessed?

Religious Studies is taught by specialist teachers. Students will have three teachers for the three elements of the course. Teaching and learning methods include discussion and debate where students will be expected to listen (and maybe partake). Questions are actively encouraged plus students undertake homework, independent study and research work outside of the classroom.

Assessment is by three exam papers, one for each element. In each paper students will have to answer two essay style questions, comprising: AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding) and AO2 (Analysis and Evaluation).

Entry requirements:	Results information:	Top destinations for students:
General BWS entry requirements apply. In addition, students will need a Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies.	We started a new syllabus two years ago and the first results in 2019 were encouraging with 40% obtaining A*/A and 65% with A*/B.	We have regularly had students studying pure Philosophy at Cambridge or Philosophy/Theology at Oxford, and other prestigious universities. Students study Philosophy on its own or as part of a dual honours degree.

Beyond the curriculum:

Some of the A level students run the 'Philosophy Club', one lunchtime a week, which it is popular with students of all ages. Every year BWS A level students attend a Philosophy/Ethics conference where outside speakers offer a different viewpoint on topics and the students can interact with students from other schools and colleges. There are often outside essay competitions to take part in, and students also have the opportunity to enrol at Sarum College Library, which has one of the largest theological collections in the South of England.