



A Level Religious Studies L6

Curriculum Intent

We encourage students to reflect upon and consider their own beliefs and practices, at the same time as giving them the skills required to justify their viewpoints through reasoned argument. We have developed a knowledge-rich, spiral curriculum that we believe allows our students to develop their knowledge of the concrete features of Christianity as the principal religion of the UK, as well as other major world religions and Humanism, before applying this to a range of ultimate questions and ethical issues. The study of world faiths allows students to move beyond the boundaries of their communities - and our curriculum is designed to support the mission and primary aims of the school, in allowing students to recognise their common humanity through respect and intercultural understanding and that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

"Who questions much, shall learn much, and retain much" Francis Bacon

Students will learn:-

- Arguments for the existence of God – inductive: Cosmological, Teleological, Challenges to inductive arguments
- Arguments for the existence of God – deductive: Origins of the Ontological Argument, Developments of the Ontological Argument, Challenges to the Ontological Argument
- Religious figures and sacred texts: Sources of authority - the origins of Hinduism, Krishna and Arjuna, Hindu texts as sources of wisdom and authority - their use in daily life
- Religious concepts: Brahman and atman, Trimurti, Key moral principles of karma and reincarnation
- Ethical Thought: Divine Command Theory, Virtue Theory, Ethical Egoism
- Aquinas' Natural Law
- Religious life: Key moral principles of Varnashramadharma
- Religious practices that shape religious identity: Puja in the home and the mandir, The role of festivals in shaping religious identity
- Situation ethics and utilitarianism
- Challenges to religious belief: The problem of evil and suffering, Religious responses: Augustinian type theodicy, Religious responses: Irenaean type theodicy
- Religious experience: The nature of religious experience, Mystical experience, Challenges to the objectivity and authenticity of religious experience

Knowledge, understanding & Skills

The WJEC Eduqas A level in Religious Studies encourages learners to:

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

How can you enhance your learning at home?

In addition to the homework tasks set via SMHW, and the textbooks provided by the school, the following wider resources might be useful for the students (and their parents) at home:

- My Revision Notes: WJEC and Eduqas A level Religious Studies Philosophy of Religion (ISBN: 978-1510450547)
- My Revision Notes: WJEC and Eduqas A level Religious Studies Religion and Ethics (ISBN: 978-1510450516)
- The Puzzle of God, Peter Vardy (ISBN: 978-0006281436)
- Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction, Kim Knott (ISBN: 978-0198745549)
- Indian Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, Sue Hamilton (978-0192853745)

What does excellence look like?

- Knowledge and application of specialist language/key terms – e.g. dharma, varnadharma, yoga.
- An ability to analyse and evaluate the importance and relevance of religious figures and sacred texts.
- An ability to analyse and evaluate the importance and relevance of these ideas in the modern world.
- An ability to analyse and evaluate ethical theories.
- An ability to analyse and evaluate the arguments and counterarguments (theodicies) about evil and suffering.
- Wider reading/independent study in evidence in students' work and extra notes in their folders.

"Any fool can know; the point is to understand"

Albert Einstein



International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

- Visits to relevant places of worship.

Within the curriculum

As part of the study of Hinduism as a *world* faith, students in year 1 of the A Level course study the origins of Hinduism. This includes learning about the Indus Valley civilisation and its features; the Aryans and their culture. Students then analyse and evaluate the relationship between modern Hinduism and Indus Valley and Aryan traditions.

Wider Reading

- My Revision Notes: WJEC and Eduqas A level Religious Studies Philosophy of Religion (ISBN: 978-1510450547)
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Extra Challenge:

<https://thecrashcourse.com/courses/philosophy>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL30C13C91CFFEFEA6>



How will we assess impact?

There will be an exam-style (a) and (b) question completed at least once per theme. This will usually be a take-home essay but may, on occasion, be completed instead as a timed essay in class.