



A LEVEL

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Information

Religious Studies is a rigorous academic discipline which demonstrates students' intellectual curiosity, ability to understand an array of different viewpoints and willingness to develop their emotional intelligence. Religious Studies provides you with information that can help you to **respect other views** and **get on well with other people**. It also provides you with valuable skills in **explaining, analysis and evaluating** which will help you to **improve your written communication** in all subjects and in life outside of school. Religious studies is a subject which is **sought after by employers** because it aids your **personal development** and provides you with important **employability skills**, such as:

- **Working collaboratively with others;**
- **Assessing a range of viewpoints;**
- **Presenting ideas and information to others;**
- **Debating and public speaking skills;**
- **Listening sensitively to the views of others.**

Course Content

Over the two years of study, you will cover:

- Philosophy of religion, including arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering and religious experience.
- Ethics and religion, including ethical theories, issues of life and death and conscience
- Christianity, including expression of religious identity and gender and sexuality.

How does A Level RS differ from GCSE RS?

The main difference between studying religious studies at GCSE and A-level, is that you will take a closer look at other topics associated with religion, such as philosophy and ethics. You may also notice that you get a bit more of a say in terms of what you answer questions on, such as being given the chance to focus on particular areas that interest you.

If you decide to take a religious studies A-level, you can expect to write a lot of essays. This goes for your final exams too, as religious studies papers typically require extended essay type answers. So, this is probably not



the course for you if you don't like writing! Alongside the writing though, you can also expect to be having lots of thought-provoking discussions and debates in class.

Why should you choose RS A Level?

The number of entries for RS A level has increased by 124% over the last twenty years, more than for any arts, humanity or social science subject.

The contextual evidence shows the growing status of RS as a subject for Higher Education entry:

- The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally'
- Both Oxford and Cambridge University include Religious Studies in the top-level list of 'generally suitable Arts A levels'
- Applicants with Religious Studies A level were more likely to gain admission to study History at Oxford University in 2022 than those with A levels in many 'facilitating' subjects such as French, Geography, Biology and Chemistry
- Almost 21% of students admitted to Oxford University to study English and 13.5% to study History in 2021 had an RS A level (more than those with Economics, Physics and Business Studies A levels)

Career prospects for those that take Religious Studies/Theology at degree level are very bright with 25% of 2021 graduates going on to work in the fields of legal, social and welfare, 11% choosing to become educational professionals.

Where to Next?

Qualifications in Religious Studies lead to a wide-range of future career opportunities. Examples of possible career routes with a qualification in Religious Studies include:

Careers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching• Law• Social Care• Nursing• Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Journalism• Armed Forces• Managerial positions• Human resources• Media

Entry Requirements

There are no additional entry requirements to study A level Religious Studies; while a GCSE in RE is desirable, it is not essential. The most important thing is that you have an interest in the subject itself!