

# **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

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## **SPECIFICATION**

A Level      EDUQAS                      Religious Studies      Route B – A120PB

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

Religious Studies is designed to encourage students to do the following:

- 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.

## **CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT**

The course is divided into three areas.

Students will study different subject areas within Religious Studies:

- A Study of Religion – Islam
- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics

Students will cover areas including:

- Religious figures and sacred texts
- Religious concepts and religious life
- Significant social and historical developments in religious thought
- Religious practices that shape religious identity
  
- Arguments for the existence of God – inductive and deductive
- Challenges to religious belief – problem of evil and suffering and religion as a product of the human mind
- Religious Experience
- Religious Language
  
- Ethical Thought
- Deontological Ethics
- Teleological Ethics
- Determinism and Free will

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<b>Exam Length</b>
Component 1	A Study of Religion – Islam	1 examination with two questions	A Level – 2 hours
Component 2	Philosophy of Religion	1 examination with two questions	A Level – 2 hours
Component 3	Religion and Ethics	1 examination with two questions	A Level – 2 hours

### **METHODS OF STUDY**

The course requires students to have an enquiring mind, an interest in the subject and a desire to examine some of the bigger questions in the universe.

Students will need to be able to read challenging texts, take notes, discuss and examine a range of different issues and to write a well-structured essay.

### **SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE**

Hopefully A Level Religious Studies will be more than a means to an end for students. The subject has something extra; real 'added value' features include:

- Exploring the mysteries of human existence
- Analysing and evaluating the views of others and substantiating their own
- Being challenged to seek answers for the mysteries of life and death
- Looking at challenging everyday issues
- Testing the views of others, including scholars; challenging the evidence and the testimonies
- Being aware of the historical, social and cultural influences on the way ideas have developed and how the past influences the future
- Facing the challenge of exploring questions that have no answers