

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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:

- The Study of Religion
- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics and Religion

Students will cover areas including:

- Religion concepts, life and practices
- Arguments for the existence of God
- Why does evil exist?
- Religious Experience and their validity
- How can something be good?
- Ethical Theory
- Applied ethics
- Religious language
- Deontological ethics
- Ethical thought
- Natural law theory
- Free will
- Determinism

Unit	Title	Method of Assessment	Exam Length
Component 1	The Study of Religion	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	Ethics and Religion	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

