

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Religious Studies: Ethics and Philosophy

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies (full or short course) or Grade 6 in GCSE Ethics and Philosophy if studied or Grade 6 in GCSE English.

Awarding body: Edexcel

About the subject: Religious Studies at A-Level goes beyond studying a particular religion's ideas and addresses fundamental questions of human existence: Is there a God? Is death the end? Does it make sense to believe in non-physical realities? Can goodness be understood objectively? Do value judgments relate to the real world? Religious experience forms a backbone for these investigations and students will look at mystical experiences and the idea of religious revelation as well as opposed ideas of rational inquiry and empirical evidence.

Religious Studies is a respected qualification that may lead to further qualifications in either, Sciences or Humanities, as well as careers that require rigorous thought and logical expression, from accountancy to advertising, from politics to policing. The religious understanding is also beneficial to students of English Literature, Law, Geography, History and Sociology.

This subject will appeal to students with an interest in other people's beliefs and the arguments that support them. Argument and debate are important features of the course and students must take an interest in self-expression through essay writing and speaking in class. There is a clear focus on the role of religion in the world and religious claims to be based on revelation, reason or both. Current affairs form an important part of the course as well as the arguments of scholars and visionaries from centuries ago.

Assessment:

This is a two-year, linear course and 100% examination that covers; beliefs in God, problems with religious belief, ethical dilemmas and the solutions to ethical problems and the New Testament. There are three examined units at the end of Year 13, that cover the following content:-

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion (33.33%) 80 marks =2hrs

Philosophical issues, Nature and influence of religious experience, Problems of evil and suffering, Philosophical language, Works of scholars, Influences of developments.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics (33.33%) 80 marks= 2hrs

Significant concepts in issues and debates, Study of three ethical theories, Application of ethical theories, Ethical language, Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars, Medical ethics.

Paper 3: New Testament Studies (33.33%) 80 marks= 2hrs

Contexts of the New Testament, Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus, Interpreting the text and the purpose and authorship, Ways of interpreting the scripture, Texts and interpretation, Scientific and historical-critical challenge.

Enrichment

Sixth form students will attend an enrichment and revision conference in Cambridge.

There will be opportunities to visit specialist exhibitions and students can subscribe to the RS Review.