



The Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form
A Level course 2017-19

Religious Studies

Entry Requirements:

In order to study Religious Studies at A Level it is necessary to have achieved a grade 4 in English Language and a grade B in Religious Education. In the event of not studying Religious Education before, a B grade in either History or Geography will be necessary.

What will I study?

The first year offers you the opportunity to study

Philosophy of Religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences; arguments about the existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the problem of evil; the nature of the soul, mind and body; life after death

Religion and Ethics:

- Normative ethical theories; ethical language and thought; the application of ethical theory to contemporary issues

Developments in Religious Thought

- How religious beliefs, values and teachings are interconnected and vary historically; sources of religious wisdom and authority; religious identity and practices

In the second year you will develop the above ideas and also study:

Philosophy of Religion

- Ideas about the nature of God; religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Debates surrounding conscience and free will; the influence of ethical thought on developments and beliefs in philosophy of religion

Developments in Religious Thought

- Social and historical developments in theology and religious thought; key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

What are the examination requirements?

There will be three 2 hour exams for each component.

What skills will I develop?

- Critical analysis of ethical and philosophical concepts.
- Evaluation of an argument.
- Debating.
- Study skills such as note-taking, reading for research and essay writing.

How will this subject help me with my future career?

Religious Studies A Level can be useful for further studies in theology and philosophy. This course helps students to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills which are transferable to any workplace and can help students to be solution focused and able to deal with large amounts of complex information. These skills complement most higher education courses and career choices, e.g. Medicine, Law, Journalism, Psychology, and Teaching.