The Cardinal Wiseman School

A Level courses

R.E

Entry Requirements:
6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a level 5 in English Language and a 6 in RE or, if not studied, then either a 6 History, Geography or English Language

What will I study?
Component 1 Christianity: - Theme 1 Religious Figures and Scared Text – Birth Narratives, Resurrection, The Bible as a Source of Wisdom and Tradition.
Theme 2 -Religious concepts and Religious Life – Nature of God, Trinity, Atonement
Theme 3 Significant social and Historical development in Religious Thought - Feminist Theology, unification migration, religious pluralism.
The study of Religion focuses on
Religious beliefs, values and teachings, in their interconnections and as they vary historically in the contemporary world, including those linked to the nature and existence of God, gods or ultimate reality, the role of the community of believers, key moral principles, beliefs about the self, death and afterlife, beliefs about the meaning and purpose of life.
A significant portion will also focus on the societal challenges and developments within Christianity in the UK such as secularisation, science, responses to pluralism and diversity within traditions, migration, the changing roles of men and women, feminist and liberationist approaches.

Component 2 Philosophy Theme 1 Philosophy-Arguments for the existence of God – inductive This theme considers how the philosophy of religion has, over time, influenced and been influenced by developments in religious beliefs and practices, inductive and deductive arguments are explored linking back to the Cosmological and Teleological and ontological arguments for the existence of God.
Theme 2: Challenges to religious belief - **the problem of evil** and **suffering** discuss and comparing the Augustinian and Irenaean Theodicies.
Theme 3: This theme considers how the **philosophy of religion** h**as**, developments with the human mind, Freud Yung, and Atheism.

The study and Philosophy of Religion will focus on
how views of religious language have changed over time; the challenges posed by the verification/falsification debate and language games theory over whether religious language should be viewed cognitively or non-cognitively; and a consideration of at least two different views about religious teachings being understood symbolically and analogically.

Component 3 Ethics Theme 1 – Ethical thought, theories such as Divine Command Theory, Virtue Ethics, Naturalism, Emotivism, Intuitionism

Theme 2 – Deontological Ethics, Natural Moral Law, developments in Natural Moral Law from Finnis. Issues connected such as Proportionalism, Immigration and Capital Punishment

Theme 3 – Teleological Ethics such as Situational Ethics how are agapeic principles applied? Utilitarianism, considering the minority rule, what is the hedonic calculus?
The study of RE will focus on: -

The application of ethical theories will consider societal or global issues of importance, including religious ethical perspectives how ethical language in the modern era has changed over time; including a study of meta-ethical theories and significant ideas in religious and moral thought such as free will, conscience or authority.

What is the examination/coursework requirements?

· **Component 1:** Christianity 2 hour written paper 33.3% of overall mark.
· **Component 2**: Philosophy 2 hour written paper 33.3% of overall mark.
· **Component 3** Ethics 2 hour written paper 33.3% of overall mark.
· There is no coursework for RE.

What skills will I develop?

Our aim is to help you grow into truly independent learners with the following skills:
· The ability to formulate an argument through wide reading, writing and debate.
· The opportunity to become an independent learner through a variety of methods of learning.
· Critical analysis
· The ability to scan and skim through relevant information, use meaningful quotations to articulate points in both written assignments and oral discussions.
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Enrichment opportunities

Throughout the two years, there will be additional opportunities to further your knowledge and understandings of the course through visiting lectures, attending the Theology Masterclass at the London Bloomsbury Church, opportunities for a Q &A with Carmelite Sisters to experience what asceticism means as part of the Christianity course.

How will this subject help me with my future career?

An A Level qualification in RE is a consistently respected achievement by the top academic institutions and also by employers.

RE is a useful subject for careers in (amongst many others) the following disciplines:

· **Law** – migration is explored closely in the Ethics and Christianity units of the course. This gives you the opportunity to debate, analyse and evaluate texts with a critical eye. Law requires you to interpret the Law, being able think laterally and problem solve.
· **Journalism** - Religion is a focal point of much of the news today- as a degree in Theology and Religious Studies always for impartiality and a Ethical code to ensure writing is fair and well informed. An A level in this subject gives a valuable insight into morality and topical issues that are central within Politics too.

Politics- Religious Studies gives students an opportunity to evaluate, reflect how and why morality should impact legality with reference to topical issues covered in A level such as Abortion and Euthanasia.
Social Work – Religious Studies offers individuals an opportunity to reflect and consider more than one view point. These skills are essential for making connections with many different multi faith and multi-cultural needs.