

# THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY IN THE SIXTH FORM



## INTRODUCTION

The A Level in Religious Studies provides a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study. Students develop their understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and the philosophy of religion.

## WHY CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

This qualification is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas. The course aims to engage students thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

Walthamstow Hall offers small class sizes in a well-equipped university-style setting. Students will have the opportunity to develop their analytical and evaluative writing skills as well as the opportunity to go and see key philosophical thinkers. Many fields, from Politics, Law and PR, value independent thought, and Religious Studies offers the opportunity for students to develop the ability to think for themselves.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The A Level in Religious Studies will encourage students to:

- 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





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We follow the OCR Religious Studies A Level syllabus, which combines three excellent strands to help students develop their Philosophical and Ethical expertise:

**Philosophy of Religion:** Arguments of the existence or non- existence of God, Plato and Aristotle and the nature of the soul, mind and body, issues of philosophical language and religion. The usefulness of religious experience. God and the Problem of Evil.

**Religion and Ethics:** Ethical language and thought, Normative ethical theories, Debates surrounding the significance of the conscience. These will all be applied to modern ethical dilemmas.

**Development in religious thought:** Sources of Wisdom and authority, historical and social developments in theology and religious thought, key themes between religious and society

There will be three 2 hour papers and no course work.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Whatever impact students want to make on our society, they will benefit themselves and others from having engaged with the fundamental questions of what it is to be human in a fascinating but troubled world. Students have the opportunity to become part of the rich tradition of high-level debates and discussions that have shaped and continue to affect every part of our world today.

Religious Studies complements many other subjects studied in the Sixth Form, and helps students to place everything they are learning in its context of academic enquiry. A number of the most popular and prestigious degree programmes at universities include studying an element of philosophy, such as Medicine, Law, PPE, Economics, Business, Management, some Science courses, Classics, History, English and Modern Languages, so students will gain an advantage if they have already established a grounding in different religious and philosophical ideas.

Furthermore, in an ever-competitive job market and higher education scene, studying Religious Studies will give students the opportunity to develop the academic rigour, high-level thinking skills, independence and creativity that will enable you to stand out to admissions tutors and prospective employers. Religious Studies is highly respected as an academic subject, particularly if studied at A Level, because of the range of complex skills and fundamental knowledge that students develop.