

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (RPE) A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course is about developing a greater understanding and appreciation of Christian 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.

Course content

Philosophy of religion to include:

- Philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief.
- Arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience, and the problems of evil and suffering.
- Philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers.

Religion and ethics to include:

- The study of ethical language and thought.

- Ethical theory applied to issues such as euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

Developments in religious thought to include:

- A systematic study of one religious tradition – Christianity.
- The exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity.
- The ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

Assessment

Three terminal two-hour exams, one for each component.

Career pathways

Higher education degrees: religion, philosophy and ethics, theology/religious studies, philosophy, law, philosophy, politics, and economic history.

Directly-related careers: lawyer, religious leader, journalist, theologian, philosopher.

Importantly, RPE teaches you skills that will be useful in whatever job you go on to do. For example, it teaches you how to engage with others that you disagree with and how to form your own opinion and articulate it clearly.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 6 in Religious Education/Studies.