

A Level Religious Studies

Why choose this subject?

“All religions, arts, and sciences are branches of the same tree.” — Albert Einstein

Religious studies is a thought provoking subject and our contemporary themes will help you inspire engaging classroom discussion. Students of A Level Religious Studies gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media. The AQA Religious Studies course ensures students have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints. If you have achieved a 6 or above in Religious Studies or English at GCSE, this may be the course for you. Religious studies can be a useful subject to study, as it will help you to see the world from different perspectives, and gain a deeper understanding of society as a whole. This is because you will learn about different religions, and the belief systems behind religious viewpoints on things like life, death, marriage, and the afterlife. We live in a diverse society, so having a deeper understanding of these things is useful to better understand the influence that religion has on different cultures, decision making, and politics around the world. At COLAI, you will receive outstanding teaching and support from a dedicated and passionate team of Religious Studies teachers to help you to achieve excellent results.

What Will I Be Studying?

The qualification has a straightforward structure with two engaging components:

Philosophy of religion and ethics
Study of religion and dialogues

Entry Criteria

5 x 5-9 grades at GCSE, plus a minimum of a grade 6 in Religious Studies or English at GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

Written exam: 3 hours, 100 marks, 50% of A-level

Section A: Philosophy of religion

Arguments for the existence of God

Evil and suffering

Religious experience

Religious language

Miracles

Self and life after death.

Section B: Ethics and religion

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death

- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant.

Assessment overview

Section A: Philosophy of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 and 15 marks.

Section B: Ethics and religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 and 15 marks.

In both sections, questions may span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2.

Paper 2: Study of religion and dialogues

Written exam: 3 hours, 100 marks, 50% of A-level

Section A - Study of religion

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality
- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

Assessment overview

Section A: Study of religion – two compulsory two-part questions, each worth 10 marks and 15 marks relating to the religion chosen. Questions may be set that span more than one topic. In each two-part question, the first part tests AO1 and the second part tests AO2.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion – one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks).