

## Radnor House Sevenoaks - Curriculum Overview A Level RS Philosophy and Ethics Year 13

OCR's A Level in Religious Studies has been developed in consultation with teachers and stakeholders from a variety of institutions. The content has been designed to provide a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study for both teachers and learners, whilst also acting as a rigorous course of study which prepares learners for progression to Higher Education. 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. OCR's A Level Religious Studies course aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

### **OCR's A Level in Religious Studies will encourage learners 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

Lessons will involve group discussions, debates and presentations as well as learning to take notes from books and teachers' verbal explanations. Examinations consist of three 2 hour exams in which pupils have to answer 3 out of 4 essays questions in each. These exams will take the form of an externally assessed written paper testing both AO1 (knowledge and understanding of religion and belief) and AO2 (analysis and evaluation of aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study).

The specification can be found at - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

### **Reading List:**

- "OCR Religious Studies A Level Year 2" by Michael Wilcockson, Hugh Campbell, Michael Wilkinson, Hodder Education ISBN: 981471866746
- Dialogue Magazine – twice yearly – several articles on various topics
- "Ethics" by Robert Bowie
- "Ethics" by Louis Pojman, Wadsworth Press
- "Philosophy of Religion" by Jordan, Lockyer and Tate – Nelson Thornes

	Autumn Term 13 WEEKS	Spring Term 10 WEEKS	Summer Term
<p>Year 13</p> <p>5 hours per week</p>	<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The nature or attributes of God:</b> omniscience, omnipotence, omnibenevolence, eternal, freewill</li> <li>• <b>Religious language:</b> Negative (the Apophatic Way), Analogical (the Cataphatic Way) or Symbolic</li> <li>• <b>20<sup>th</sup> century perspectives and philosophical comparisons:</b> logical positivism, Wittgenstein’s language games and the falsification symposium</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meta-ethical theories:</b> naturalism, intuitionism, emotivism</li> <li>• <b>Conscience:</b> Aquinas and Freud</li> <li>• <b>Sexual Ethics:</b> premarital, extramarital and homosexuality and apply the 4 ethical approaches – Natural Law, Categorical Imperative, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Christian Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Religious pluralism and theology:</b> exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism</li> <li>• <b>Religious pluralism and society:</b> the development of contemporary multi-faith societies and Christian responses including inter-faith dialogue and the scriptural reasoning movement</li> <li>• <b>Gender and society:</b> Christian teaching on the roles of men and women in the family and society and Christian responses to contemporary secular views</li> <li>• <b>Gender and theology:</b> The reinterpretation of God by feminist theologians, including the teaching of Rosemary Radford Ruether and Mary Daly on gender and its implications for the Christian idea of God</li> <li>• <b>The Challenge of Secularism:</b> The rise of secularism and secularisation, and the views that God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment and that Christianity should play no part in public life (Freud and Dawkins)</li> <li>• <b>Liberation Theology and Marx:</b> Marx’s teaching on alienation and exploitation, liberation theology’s use of Marx to analyse social sin and liberation theology’s teaching on the ‘preferential option for the poor’</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revision and Exams</b></p>