

Religion & Philosophy



at RHB Sixth Form

Religious Studies at A Level is a *real and relevant* exploration of the *quest for meaning and understanding*. It allows you to be introduced to an academic approach to *Philosophy* and *Theology* through topics which build upon GCSE. The main emphasis throughout the course is to develop a *reasoned argument*. This means that you will be encouraged to *think for yourself*, look for flaws in arguments, and come to conclusions about the success or failure of theories.

"I chose Religion & Philosophy because I wanted to take a subject which was thought-provoking, new and different."

RHB ALUMNA

COURSE OUTLINE

There are three areas of study. These are assessed in separate 2 hour exams at the end of the course.

Philosophy of religion

- ancient Greek, Jewish and Christian philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- arguments about the existence of God
- religious experience
- the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language

Religion and ethics

- normative ethical theories:
 - Utilitarianism
 - Natural Law
 - Kant
- the application of ethical theory to contemporary issues:
 - Sex and sexuality
 - Euthanasia
 - Business Ethics
- ethical language and thought
- conscience

Developments in Christian thought

- Human Nature
- Death and the Afterlife
- Knowledge of God
- Christian Moral theory and action
- Feminist Theology
- Liberation Theology
- Secularism
- Religious Pluralism

IS THIS THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

While the course builds on GCSE level RS, A Level can also be studied 'from scratch' by someone who has not taken GCSE. Neither belief in a religion, nor lack of belief, is a necessity for this course. You need to have an open mind and a desire to study people's beliefs in depth and to examine your own ideas.



**ROYAL HIGH
BATH**

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

Further Education

RHB RS students have gone on to study at top universities including, in recent years, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at KCL, Liberal Arts at University of Exeter, Sociology at Manchester and Swansea Universities, and Theology and Religion at Oxford.

Careers

Religious Studies is a well-established subject at A Level and at university. It is recognised as an academic subject by universities, and one which equips students with highly transferable skills such as the ability to formulate arguments clearly, to make reasoned judgments and to evaluate highly complex and multifaceted issues. The subject leads to all sorts of careers in the arts, law, journalism, politics, languages. It helps with people-centred careers and medical ethical decisions. But most of all it teaches students to think and question and argue logically and coherently.

ENRICHMENT

During the Autumn Term the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution runs a series of Philosophy seminars for Sixth Formers. Our students are encouraged to attend, especially if they are looking to apply for a RS, Theology or Philosophy degree.

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Ms Emma Bridgman

EXAM BOARD

OCR

For Girls. For Life.

