

# Religious Studies A Level

## Eduqas

**Fascinating and enlightening, A Level Religious Studies can be an excellent subject choice. Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. The A Level syllabus combines the in-depth study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics with the study of the major world religion of Islam and the development of thought within it.**

### Course Structure

**Component 1: Islam** Islam is the world's fastest growing religion and of particular interest to the social scientists studying religion as it bucks the trend normally seen in other western religions of becoming more secularised. This component gives you the opportunity to study a religion in depth and ask questions about religion's place in the modern world. You will explore questions such as: What is the significance of the Shari'a? What is the real meaning of jihad? What do Muslims believe? Is Islam compatible with science? Is Islam misunderstood? What is the difference between Shi'a and Sunni? Who is a Sufi?

**Component 2: Philosophy of Religion** Philosophy of religion asks whether the idea of God makes sense. Social scientists study philosophy of religion to better understand how religious believers understand their own beliefs. Topics include arguments for the existence of God from reason and experience, challenges to religious belief from evil, science and psychology, the meaning of religious experience and the problem of religious language. You will enjoy this unit if you want to be able to justify belief in God and equally if you want to disprove belief in God.

**Component 3: Ethics** Ethics is concerned with deciding what actions are right and what actions are wrong. How can we decide what is the morally right thing to do has always been a key question for societies. This topic explores how ethical theory both religious and non-religious has been developed to help inform society and individuals about what actions are right and wrong. You will love this topic if you are interested in law or specific ethical issues such as bio-ethics and the right to life.

### Skills & Knowledge

A Level Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of University degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. Humanities, English, Psychology, PPE. In terms of knowledge, you will leave with a fundamental grounding in the main arguments and debates surrounding religion in Western Philosophy and in depth understanding of Islam as a world religion, its history, development and diversity in the contemporary world.

### Assessment

Sections are all assessed by external examination at the end of the course. There are three 2 hour exams. Examiners will be assessing knowledge and understanding of the topics and issues studied, as well as your ability to interpret, analyse and assess different points of view.

### Opportunities & Enrichment

London has a huge variety of opportunities to explore religion including permanent exhibitions in our national museums as well as specialist events and exhibits; for example, the Southbank's festival of Spirituality. As well as these there are opportunities to visit places of worship and see religion in practice. Past trips have included attending lectures at the Southbank Centre and Regent's Park Mosque.

### Future Careers & Pathways

Religious Studies or a related subject at degree level can lead to a range of challenging and rewarding jobs, using either direct knowledge gained from the subject or from the skills gained. Possible jobs from a Religious Studies degree include: Lecturing, teaching, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker.