

# Course Description

## Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)

### Course Description

Since the publication of Richard Dawkins' book, the 'God Delusion', never have the ancient arguments surrounding the existence of God been so keenly debated. This course allows you the opportunity to explore these ideas in depth and make your own contribution. The first component encourages you to consider the writings of some of the greatest figures in intellectual history like Plato, Aristotle and Kant. In ethics you will explore how we make moral decisions, including applying this to war and medical ethics. The third component is focused on the developments in religious thought, including beliefs, values and teachings. Both As Level and A Level are made up of the following:

#### Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

Ancient philosophical influences  
The arguments for the existence of God  
The problem of evil  
The possibility of life after death

#### Component 2: Religion and Ethics

Normative ethical theories  
Ethical language and thought  
Applied Ethics

#### Component 3: Developments in religious thought

Religious beliefs, values and teachings  
Sources of religious wisdom and authority  
Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition

### Entry Criteria

A GCSE in English Language or Literature at Grade 6 is required. A GCSE Grade 6 in Religious Studies is preferred but not essential.