Course Description

Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)

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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.

Exam Board: OCR
Specification link: AS and A Level - Religious Studies - H173, H573

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