

Academic Requirements

There are no prior knowledge requirements for this subject. However a B in GCSE Religious Studies or a subject such as English Literature or History will indicate that you have the necessary skills to succeed. An interest in human values, morality and human nature is essential. You should also have a lively enquiring mind and a willingness to question and debate.

Course Specification: Edexcel Religious Studies 6584

AS: Foundations Module 6581

Philosophy of Religion

- a. A study of philosophical arguments about the existence of God
- b. The problem of evil and suffering

Ethics

- a. A study of ethical theories, such as utilitarianism and situation ethics
- b. A study of ethical dilemmas in sexual ethics and issues of war and peace
- c. The relationship between religion and morality

AS: Investigations Module 6582

A study of medical ethics in preparation for an extended essay written under examination conditions.

A2: Developments Module 6583

Philosophy of Religion

- a. Further arguments for the existence of God
- b. Religious experience
- c. Religious language
- d. Life after death

Ethics

- a. Ethical theories, such as deontology, natural moral law and virtue ethics
- b. Applied ethics; topics such as justice, law and punishment
- c. A study of ethical language

A2: Implications Module 6584

Within the context of the specification, students will consider implications in terms of how far particular beliefs and values might affect people's understanding or awareness, including their own, of: Religion and Human Experience.

Why study Philosophy of Religion and Ethics?

This is a subject of great diversity. You will be required to keep an open mind and consider both the believer's and the sceptic's point of view. These are useful skills for any Arts or Humanities degree and the need to question sources and consider bias would be good preparation for future careers such as law or journalism. You must have a keen awareness of issues of perennial concern and an interest in current affairs; reference will be made to news items and developments in the fields of medicine, law and order and aspects of government. Anyone interested in how our society has been shaped by its history and the part religion has played in the development of its moral codes, should consider this subject.

A Student's Perspective

'It is enjoyable, interesting and very useful, as we are constantly encouraged to think for ourselves, question what we are presented with and keep an open mind. We also learn to communicate well with each other and accept and respect one another's views. We are encouraged to read around our studies to appreciate things in greater detail which is also good preparation for university life. This is an interesting combination of research and historical ideas, and present-day moral issues and dilemmas.'