

## Religious Studies

### Entry Requirements

Pupils would need **at least a grade B** in Religious Studies at GCSE and because essays need reasoned argument and analysis they would also need to be good at History and English Literature. As many books and texts are used, pupils will need to be able to read and assimilate information easily.

Although priority will be given to those who gained a good grade in GCSE Religious Studies, **it is possible to take this subject at AS/A2 level even if they have only studied short course RS**. However they would need to demonstrate that they can write essays and have good grades in English Language and English Literature (minimum of a B grade in each).

**Candidates should ensure that they have adequate levels of literacy before choosing this subject.**

AS Course	A2 Course
<p><b>Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Issues in Medical Ethics</b> Examined in May/June. This unit explores the themes and principles that are foundational to religious ethics: foundations, Natural Law, utilitarianism, situation ethics. Students then apply these ethical approaches to key issues in Bioethics and Life and Death Issues. Students also explore the relationship between ethics and other aspects of human experience.</p>	<p><b>Global Ethics</b> Examined in May/June. This unit explores moral theory. This includes the origins and development of virtue ethics, free will, determinism, Libertarianism, conscience. The moral theory underpins the study of global ethics, focusing on the topics of: global rights; human rights; sexual identity; justice and punishment; problems with contemporary warfare.</p>
<p><b>An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion</b> Examined in May/June. This unit explores some of the classical arguments for the existence of God: the ontological and cosmological arguments and the argument from religious experience. Students consider challenges to religious belief: atheism; agnosticism; arguments for the existence of God; the problem of suffering. At the end of the unit other aspects of human experience are considered.</p>	<p><b>Themes in the Philosophy of Religion</b> Examined in May/June. This unit explores: themes in religious language from medieval philosophers to the twentieth century; life after death; key philosophers and religious thinkers; existentialism; humanism; contemporary atheism; theistic and atheistic existentialism; the challenges from atheism and secularisation and the influence of psychology on religious belief.</p>

## Scheme of Assessment

AS	A2
<p><b>Two 1 hour 20 minutes external written examinations</b>  <b>Each paper worth 50% of AS and 20% of A Level.</b></p> <p>Students answer one from two questions in Section A and one from two questions in Section B.</p>	<p><b>Two 2 hour externally assessed written papers.</b>  <b>Each paper worth 50% of A2 and 30% of A Level.</b></p> <p>Students answer two from three questions in Section A and the compulsory synoptic question in Section B.</p>

## Career Opportunities

Most pupils use A-Level Religious Studies to make up the required points for entry to 3rd Level Education.

In previous years pupils who studied Religious Studies at A Level have gained entry to the following university courses: Law (including study at Cambridge University), History with Politics, Teaching, Psychology, Social Work, Journalism and many more.



FOYLE COLLEGE