

Religious Studies

Astudiaethau Crefyddol

Level: 3

Syllabus: WJEC AS/ A2 Religious Studies

Duration of Course: 1 / 2 Years

Course Venue: The John Frost School

Course Outline

If you like debates and have an enquiring mind, then Religious Studies may be the subject for you. It provides you with a qualification that shows you are open-minded, logical and value different points of view. This course is ideal for those who have an inquiring mind and who want to debate ethical issues and ideas. It develops higher order thinking skills and debating techniques as well as critical thinking.

Entry Requirements

We are looking for five GCSEs at Grade C or above. These should include English. These requirements can be negotiated.

What will I study?

The 2 modules at AS are:

Ethics and Philosophy

Ethics is also known as moral philosophy; it is about what we consider to be right and wrong and how we make decisions about moral issues. In the course we consider moral dilemmas and discuss and debate the various alternatives. This is a course that develops students' abilities to grasp and debate abstract ideas and evaluate them, it is engaging and thought provoking and involves lots of discussion.

In AS we cover:

- Major ethical theories such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism, Situation ethics, Ethical Egoism and Aristotle's Virtue Ethics.
- We will consider the views of some of the most famous philosophers, Aristotle, Jeremy Bentham and Thomas Aquinas, to name but a few.
- Problem of Evil, Religious Experience and Arguments in favour of the existence of God

Buddhism – a religion without God?

Most Buddhists do not have a belief in God and yet it is a religion, this makes it an interesting religion to study. Buddhism is a spiritual tradition that focuses on personal spiritual development and the attainment of a deep insight into the true nature of life.

Students will learn the fundamentals of Buddhist thought and practice. This course is great for those wanting to explore a very different philosophy that is the polar opposite to the Abrahamic faiths of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. It encourages both debate and evaluation of ideas.

In AS we cover:

- The life of the Buddha and his main teachings.
- Buddhist practice including meditation and the rules for both the laity and the monks.

The 3 modules at A2 are:

Ethics- Do we have freewill or are all our choices determined? Approaches to Ethics: Intuitionism, Emotivism and Naturalism.

Philosophy- Religious/Metaphorical Language, Arguments against the existence of God

Buddhism- Scriptures: their significance and use, Japanese and Tibetan practices and application of teachings.

How will I be assessed?

There are two examinations at AS. This accounts for 40% of the final A Level grade.

There are three examinations at A2. All AS modules can be taken more than once.



Career Opportunities and Progression

All universities accept Religious Studies as a valid qualification; it is respected as a rigorous academic qualification which is why it is on the list of approved subjects for Cambridge University. It is a complimentary subject for many other academic A levels such as English, History, Sociology, Psychology, Law Media Studies. Religious Studies is a traditional academic subject like English Literature or Language, History or Geography. Such subjects are valued by employers in a range of careers, including business and management, finance, teaching, the media, social services, law, publishing, advertising, politics or the Civil Service. Additionally, as the course includes discussion on ethical and religious issues it lends itself to careers such as social work, law, teaching, the army and medicine.