

AS/A2 Level Religious Studies

Teachers: Ms Gill & Mr James

Examination

AS Foundations: one written exam of 1¾ hours.
Investigations: one written exam of 1¼ hours

A2 Developments: one written exam of 1¾ hours.
Implications: one written exam of 1¼ hours.

Format of the Course

AS

Foundations

Students will be introduced to key areas in the study of Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics. Topics include: arguments about the existence of God; the problem of evil and suffering; debates about miracles; the relationship between religion and morality; methods for making moral decisions; issues of war and peace; and, sexual ethics.

Investigations

This takes the form of a teacher guided but individually researched project on the topic of the 'Mind-Body' problem. Half of lesson time will be devoted to seminar sessions, one-to-one tutorials and opportunities for doing private study using departmental resources. In the written exam, students will answer a question relating to that topic.

A2

Developments

The themes build on those of the AS Foundations unit. Topics include: further arguments about the existence of God; beliefs about life after death; religious language; critiques of the relationship between religion and morality; further methods of making moral decisions; ethical language; concepts of justice, law and punishment.

Implications

For this unit, students study a number of key philosophical texts in order to make connections between the different elements of the AS and A2 courses. They will be prepared to write an extended exam essay on a specified theme.

Activities

Students are encouraged to use their creative skills in exploring theological and philosophical concepts. Activities include debates, videos, preparing and presenting seminars, writing essays and a number of visits. There are many opportunities outside of the classroom of which successful AS/A2 students make use.