

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



**BEVERLEY
JOINT
SIXTH**



AS AND A2 LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2012

Why Study RS?-Because you want a career with a difference!

The knowledge, understanding and skills required in the RS AS and A2 level courses are held in high regard by employers and universities.

With a good A-level pass in RS you will have a wide variety of options open to you. Because the subject includes so many other disciplines, you will be in a good position to apply for any arts/humanities course at University. If you wish to go directly into training or employment, RS will be of particular help in professions which involve dealing with people (such as management, medicine, teaching, police/armed services), or involve issues, arguments, opinion and debate (such as law, journalism, politics).

It goes particularly well with English, Media Studies, History, and Psychology options.

GCE AS and A level AQA

Unit A Religion and Ethics 1 RSO1

1. Utilitarianism

- General principles of utilitarianism,
- (Actions are deemed moral if they result
- in maximum pleasure and minimum pain for
- those involved.
- The application of Utilitarianism to issues
- Which will include: Embryo research, genetic engineering,
- Stem cell research, transplants, and environmental issues

2. Situation ethics

- The general principles of situation
- ethics, as a middle
- way between legalism and complete freedom.
- The application of Situation ethics
- to issues
- Which will include: Embryo research, genetic
- engineering, stem cell research, transplants,
- and environmental issues.

3. Religious teaching on the nature and Value of human life

- The nature of humanity and the human condition
- Fatalism and Free will
- Equality and difference
- The Value of life

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4. Abortion and Euthanasia

- The value and potential of real life
 - Mother versus child's life
 - Ethical issues involved in legislation
 - Study and application of religious, Utilitarian and Kantian ethics
 - Euthanasia active or passive
 - The right of humans to decide when they die
- Reference to religious teaching

Unit E

1 and 2-The Nature and Purpose of Religious Art RSS05

- What is religious art?
- The range of visual art in religion, e.g. images and statuary, stained glass, architecture.
- The purpose of religious art including propaganda and inspiration.
- Art as an expression of faith.
- The relevance of religious art today.

3 and 4-Humour, Fiction and Religion.

- Examples of religious comedy, e.g. The Simpsons, Goodness Gracious Me etc.
- The role of comedy and satire in religion.
- The impact of comedy on religion.
- The use of religious themes in fiction.
- The study of religious themes in two works of fiction e.g. The Da Vinci Code and Bruce Almighty.
- Reasons for the popularity of such works and religious responses to them.

Unit 3B Philosophy of Religion RST3B

1.Does God exist?

- The Ontological argument presented by
- Anselm and Descartes
- The relationship between reason and faith
- Evaluation of the Ontological argument.

2. Religious Language

3. Body Soul and personal identity

- The nature and existence of the body/soul relationship.
- Personal identity and the possibility of continued personal existence after death.
- Re-birth, reincarnation and the replica theory
- Nature of near death experiences and their value as evidence of survival beyond death.

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4. The Problem of evil

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- The concepts of natural and moral evil
- The challenge that evil and suffering presents to faith
- Religious defences of evil

Unit 4B Religion and Contemporary Society RST4B

- Freedom of religion
- Religious dress and symbols
- The challenges to practising religion in a secular society
- Attitudes to sexual behaviour
- Attitudes to relationships, arranged marriage and family life
- The nature and role of a faith community in the UK
- Interfaith relations
- The impact of interfaith dialogue on UK society as a whole.

Career Opportunities: Held in high regard by universities - particularly if following arts/humanities. Useful in professions which involve issues, argument, debate - eg law, journalism, politics and those dealing with people, e.g. teaching, medicine.