

A LEVEL RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Course description

Awarding Body: OCR

Examinations

Philosophy of religion (01)

Religion and ethics (02)

Developments in religious thought – Christianity (03)

Non-Examined Assessment

N/A



Course content

Studying Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at Newstead Wood School provides students with an exciting opportunity to consider the big questions in life such as why we are here, matters of right and wrong and issues surrounding belief. Students will be examined in all of the following three areas.

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

This paper includes arguments relating to the existence and non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. Also explored are questions involving philosophical language and thought which is explored through both modern and ancient thinkers.

Paper 2: Religion and ethics

This paper is characterised by the study of ethical language and thought, with exploration of key theories and modern and ancient thinkers. Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance, namely euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics.

Paper 3: Developments in religious thought

For this paper, Christian beliefs, identity and thinkers are explored in detail, as well as, the way in which religious traditions have developed over time in response to challenges and contemporary social issues.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or above in at least one of English and/or a Humanities (namely, Religious Studies, History or Geography).

Future opportunities

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics teaches students how to think critically, challenge assumptions and construct arguments. It also helps them to develop a broad understanding of the beliefs that influence societies and individuals. As such, it is highly regarded by universities and employers and equips students well for a broad range of careers including in Law, Government and Broadcasting.

Students often subsequently go on to study 'Religious Studies', 'Philosophy', 'Religion and Ethics' or 'Theology' at university. Philosophy is a particularly popular choice as part of a joint honours degree, for example, 'Philosophy, Politics and Economics' ('PPE') or 'Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics' ('PPL').

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply for positions as Student Subject Leaders and their role is to promote the subject across the school, mentor younger students, run Philosophy club, speak to parents at Open Evening and generally be ambassadors for the subject across the school. Each year, Year 12 and 13 students deliver lessons to younger students and their own peers as part of a programme of peer teaching.

Further information

Our results are consistently high and we are extremely proud of the achievements of our students.

In recent years our students have gone on to study Philosophy, Theology or PPE at Durham, Warwick, Sheffield and St Andrews. For any specific queries, please email aboutall@newsteadwood.co.uk