

BVGS RE Department

A Level

What are the Big Ideas in A Level Religious Studies?

The big ideas in A Level Religious Studies are Learning About Religion(s) and Learning From Religion(s) plus the students' own Spiritual Journey. Learning About Religion(s) is the idea that students should understand the key concepts of religion(s). Learning From Religion(s) encourages the students to question, evaluate and reflect upon what they or others could learn from religion(s). The Spiritual Journey is an approach that aims to create space for students to consider their own existence and it is as unique and individual as each individual is unique; and as such, each student eventually comes to attain their education in their own way, in their own time.

What topics will I learn in A Level Religious Studies?

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

Section A: Philosophy of religion

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Verifying religious experiences
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self, death and the afterlife

Section B: Ethics and religion

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of natural moral law, situation ethics and virtue ethics to: Issues of human & non-human life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics: the meaning of right and wrong
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Comparison of the key ideas of Bentham and Kant about moral decision making & how far these two ethical theories are consistent with religious moral decision making.

Component 2: Study of Religion and dialogues

2B Christianity:

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God
- Self, death and afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expressions of religious identity
- Christianity, gender and sexuality

- Christianity and science
- Christianity and the challenge of secularisation
- Christianity, migration and religious pluralism

Dialogues: The dialogue between Christianity and philosophy & the dialogue between Christianity and ethics

How will we study A Level Religious Studies?

Lessons

Homework

Books

Film, Television, Radio

Potentially visits

Visiting speakers

How will my work be assessed?

Two end of course exams Year 13:

Component 1 Philosophy of Religion & Ethics – 50%

Component 2 Study of Religion (Christianity) & Dialogues – 50%

There will also be an in class assessment at the end of each topic that is taught. Which will be 22 assessments through Years 12 & 13. There will be an end of Year 12 UCAS exam and a mock exam in Year 13.