Formby High School
Sixth Form

A Level Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies at Formby High School?

Religious Studies is a thought-provoking and challenging course focusing on Philosophy, Ethics and a study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of one world religion. It is a highly respected academic qualification, developing skills of reasoning, critical evaluation and abstract thinking and sharpening your ability to read for information, write structured essays and construct effective arguments. You will learn about and reflect upon the big ideas of some of the greatest thinkers in human history through a rigorous study involving a range of activities which will prepare you well for university, whatever you go on to study.

What does the course involve?

You will study towards the Eduqas WJEC A Level in Religious Studies. There are three areas of study. **Philosophy of Religion** includes elements such as arguments for the existence of God, challenges to religious belief, the nature of miracles and how language is used in religious philosophy. You will engage with the big ideas and find out what different scholars think about how convincing they are.
Ethical Philosophy involves the analysis of various methods that scholars have proposed for determining what is right or good, such as whether it is following the rules or doing what is best that matters most, together with theories such as Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism and Natural Law. You will also explore moral issues such as sexual ethics, animal experimentation, immigration and capital punishment as well as considering the question of whether we are truly free.
The world religion you will study is Buddhism. You will explore the core teachings and beliefs of Buddhism and the ways in which those beliefs influence the practices and lives of believers as well as the social and historical development of the religion and the work of scholars on the subject.

You will sit a separate, 2 hour examination in each of the three areas of the course. In each examination you will be asked to choose two essay questions from a total of five.

What can the qualification lead to?

Religious Studies is a useful qualification for anyone thinking of a career or profession where your decisions will affect the lives of others. Apart from Philosophy and Theology, former students have gone on to study subjects such as Anthropology, Art, Business Studies, English, Forensic Sciences, History, IT, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Nursing, Teaching, Town Planning and Youth Work. Others have pursued careers such as the Police Service, Human Resources and Retail Management.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or grade 6 in English Language or Literature.

Which other subjects complement Religious Studies?

Religious Studies students often study one or more of:

- Ancient History
- English
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History

However, a number of students have successfully combined it with subjects like:

- Business (BTEC)
- Theatre Studies
- Film Studies
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Physical Education (A Level/BTEC)
- Sciences
- Art

Student Viewpoint

"Religious Studies widens your knowledge of different beliefs and practices. It has helped me think and reason in a balanced way, looking at different perspectives and opinions in arguments, considering a variety of factors. I found it particularly interesting to explore Buddhism and its view on the meaning of life. I also study History and English Literature and Language, which compliment RS in many ways as they both focus on improving your analytical and debating skills, helping me form a comprehensible argument full of the knowledge I have acquired. My RS teachers are very supportive and enthusiastic. Lessons are engaging with the teachers being responsive to any needs you may have; they consistently offer support and guidance as to how you can individually improve. I have thoroughly enjoyed my study of RS as it was fascinating and interesting. I would highly recommend it to any new students."

Courses will require a minimum number of five students in order to run.