

Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is an interesting, current and academic subject which enables us to investigate life's most fundamental questions such as "why does evil exist?" and "what is the purpose of life?". It gives you an opportunity to study topics which explain the variety of life and religions in the modern world, as well as improving your philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think in a creative manner. You will also have an opportunity to discuss, understand and voice your opinion on current ethical issues, such as the use of nuclear weapons, testing on animals and issues related to medical ethics.

Entry requirements

Achieving a grade B or above will guarantee you a place on this course. It may be possible for you to choose the subject with a C grade at GCSE, based on a discussion with the Head of Department and Head of Sixth Form. It may also be possible to accept students who have not previously studied Religious Studies. Please get in touch with the Head of Department.

Course details and assessment format

AS

AS Units

Unit 1: Written exam: 1¼ hour (15% of the qualification). An Introduction to the Study of Religion: Buddhism. An opportunity to study four fundamental religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts, religious concepts, religious life and religious practices that shape religious identity.

Unit 2: Written exam: 1¾ hour (25% of the qualification). An Introduction to Religion and Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion.

A Level

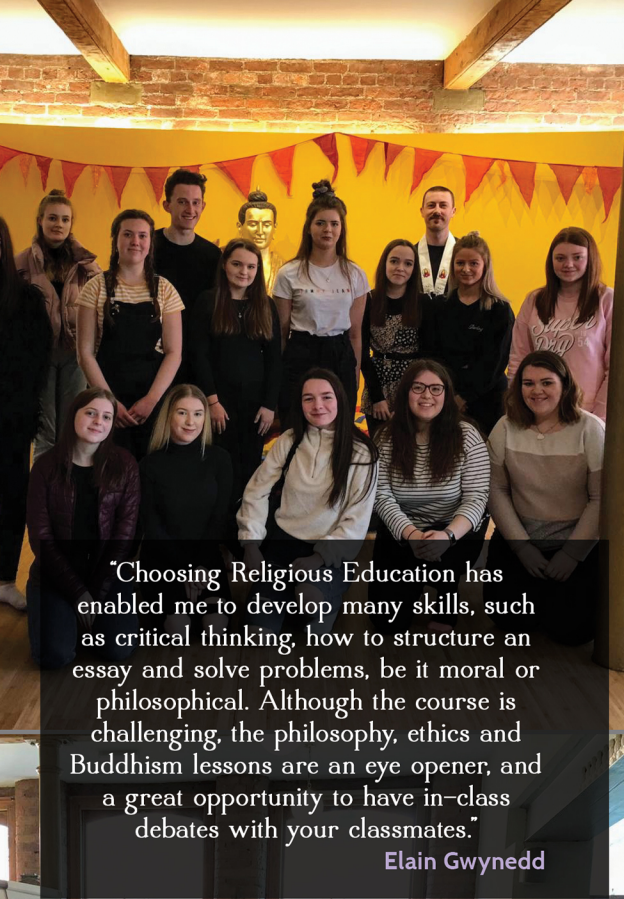
Unit 3: Written exam: 1½ hour (20% of the qualification) Study of Religion - Buddhism. An opportunity to study four fundamental religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts, significant historical developments in religious thought, significant social developments in religious thought and religious practices that shape religious identity.

Unit 4: Written exam: 1½ hour (20% of the qualification) A Study of Religion and Ethics; an opportunity to study four fundamental ethical themes.

Unit 5: Written exam: 1½ hour (20% of the qualification) A Study of the Philosophy of Religion; an opportunity to study four philosophical themes.

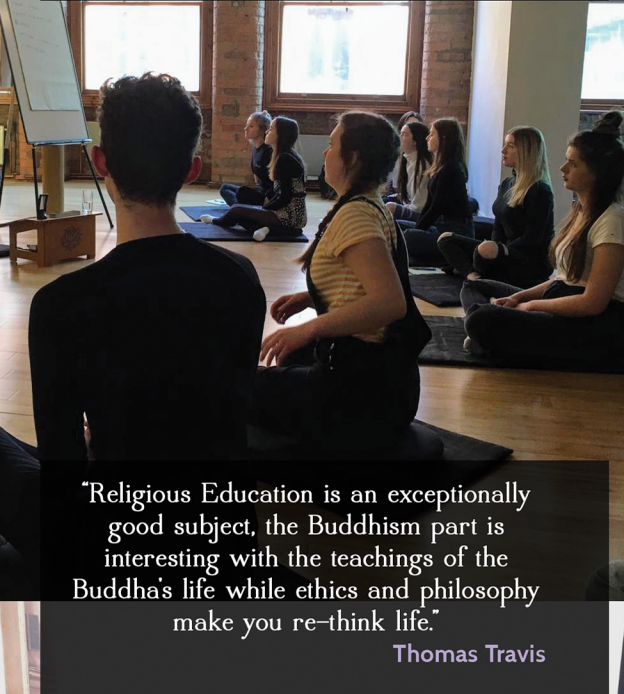
Skills which are developed and possible progression

Studying Religious Studies will enable you to develop essential skills which can be transferred to other subjects, such as communication, analysis, learning how to express your viewpoint in a clear manner and improving your self-confidence. Studying this subject will improve your critical thinking skills which is essential if you wish to study several subjects at University, e.g. Psychology, History, Philosophy, Religion and Sociology. Studying Religious Studies can lead to a wide variety of careers in the future, namely the police, medicine, nursing, civil service, law, journalism, education, social services, politics, religious institutions and care.



"Choosing Religious Education has enabled me to develop many skills, such as critical thinking, how to structure an essay and solve problems, be it moral or philosophical. Although the course is challenging, the philosophy, ethics and Buddhism lessons are an eye opener, and a great opportunity to have in-class debates with your classmates."

Elain Gwynedd



"Religious Education is an exceptionally good subject, the Buddhism part is interesting with the teachings of the Buddha's life while ethics and philosophy make you re-think life."

Thomas Travis

