



Step into Year 12 AS Religious Studies



The Religious Studies A'Level Course is made up of three elements: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics, and a study of Judaism. If you are thinking of taking this subject, take a look at some of the resources below to help you to 'step into' the course at AS level. You could gather information by watching videos, or make notes and mind maps from recommended websites.

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion:

This section is divided into the study of following philosophical themes:

1. Inductive arguments for the existence of God: The cosmological argument, the teleological argument.
2. Deductive arguments for the existence of God: The ontological argument.
3. Challenges to religious belief part (i) – the problem of evil.
4. Religious experience part (i).

An Introduction to Religion and Ethics:

This section is divided into the study of four fundamental ethical themes:

1. Ethical thought (part 1) – Divine Command Theory, Virtue Theory, Ethical Egoism.
2. Aquinas' Natural Law.
3. Fletcher's Situation Ethics.
4. Utilitarianism.

An Introduction to the study of Judaism:

1. Religious figures and sacred texts (Abraham, Moses, covenant, Torah)
2. Religious concepts (the nature of God, The Shema prayer, meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about life after death).
3. Religious life (mitzvot, prayer, charity, key moral principles).
4. Religious practices that shape identity (The Synagogue, Festivals: Pesach, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur).

Useful resources: Philosophy and Ethics:

- The Netflix series, '**The Good Place**' is an interesting series which has some direct links to philosophical and ethical theory.
- **Crash course Philosophy** on You Tube has a range of relevant video summaries.
- www.philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm Summaries of ethical theorists and their works.
- www.bbc.co.uk/religion/ BBC's Religion and Ethics homepage with links to a forum and audio and video links.
- <http://www.miracosta.edu/home/Imoon/ET.html> Good overview of basic ethical theory.
- <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/romp-through-ethics-complete-beginners> Excellent set of podcasts on Ethics courtesy of the University of Oxford.
- www.iep.utm.edu Ethics section of the Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy.

WJEC Recommended Useful Websites

www.myjewishlearning.com/
www.jewfaq.org/
www.liberaljudaism.org/
www.reformjudaism.org.uk/
www.chabad.org/
www.beingjewish.com/
www.torah.org/

Films such as 'The Prince of Egypt', 'Exodus: Gods and Kings', 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

