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# Religious Studies

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## Course Introduction

This specification is split into 3 units of study: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Sikhism. Each unit of study provides students with the opportunity to develop their ability to contextualise and analyse information concerning the ultimate reality of life. The students will broaden their knowledge of the different religious beliefs and world views that they study, demonstrating that they are able to adapt to different perspectives on the philosophical and ethical questions raised. The ability to create extended essay answers, listen, present and reflect on personal beliefs are a sample of the other skills that are developed through this specification. Most importantly the students will be able to gain an insight into the multicultural society in which we live, gaining an appreciation for the vast amount of varied opinions on ultimate questions.

## Assessment

New AS level Specification 2016:

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour, 50 marks.

Assessment in two sections. Students to answer all questions in Section A and choose one question in Section B.

Section A: Four short structured questions.

Section B: A choice of two, two part essay questions.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 1 hour, 50 marks.

Assessment in two sections. Students to answer all questions in Section A and choose one question in Section B.

Section A: Four short structured questions, 25 Marks.

Section B: A choice of two, two part essay questions, 25 Marks.

New Specification A level: September 2016

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion.

Written examination: 2 hours, 80 marks

Assessment in three sections, A, B and C. Students answer all questions in Sections A and B, and choose one question in Section C.

Section A: Three short, structured questions. 18 Marks.

Section B: Two extended-response questions on an unseen passage. 32 Marks.

Section C: A choice of two extended essay questions. 30 Marks.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics.

Written examination: 2 hours, 80 marks

Assessment in three sections, A, B and C. Students answer all questions in Sections A and B, and choose one question in Section C.

Section A: Three short, structured questions. 18 Marks.

Section B: Two extended-response questions on an unseen passage. 32 Marks.

Section C: A choice of two extended essay questions. 30 Marks.

Paper 4: Study of Religion: Sikhism.

Written examination: 2 hours, 80 marks

Assessment in three sections, A, B and C. Students answer all questions in Sections A and B, and choose one question in Section C.

Section A: Three short, structured questions. 18 Marks.

Section B: Two extended-response questions on an unseen passage. 32 Marks.

Section C: A choice of two extended essay questions. 30 Marks.

Section A Three short, structured questions. Section B Two extended-response questions on an unseen passage. Section C A choice of two extended essay questions.

## Minimum Entry Requirement

Grade 6 in GCSE English and B in Religious studies

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## Specifications AS & A Level

### Philosophy of Religion:

- The Design Argument
- The Cosmological Argument
- The Ontological Argument
- Miracles
- Religious Experience
- Evil and Suffering
- Religious Language
- Life after Death

### Sikhism

- Definition of Guru and significance of the Guru Granth Sahib
- Miri Piri
- Sikh Movements
- The British Empire
- Independence, Assimilation and Orthodoxy
- Life of Guru Nanak through to Guru Gobind Singh
- The Study of Key Texts

Students will be expected to carry out their own research and develop their own understanding of these philosophical issues and questions of faith. The students will develop their communication skills through written exercises in preparation for their exams and debates during classes. Whilst studying Philosophy, the students will have to encounter questions about the nature and characteristics of God. They will have to interpret analyse and convey ideas on how to solve the problem of evil and suffering for the existence of God, whilst also looking for evidence that supports God's existence.

Throughout the study of Sikhism, the students will have to think from both a historical and a religious standpoint. They will be discussing the effects of the religious climate at the time of the Gurus and comparing this to the development of Sikhism in countries across the world today. Students will engage with the religious developments of Sikhism, identifying challenges to orthodoxy.