



# RS (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)

Exam Board: OCR  
Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

## COURSE SUMMARY

RS (Philosophy and Ethics) introduces you to a variety of new, interesting, thought provoking and academically rigorous topics from Plato's cave to Aristotle's prime mover, Nietzsche's 'God is dead' to Aquinas 'necessary being', Aristotle's virtue ethics to Bentham's 'greatest happiness for the greatest number'. The course gives you an insight of ideas that have shaped thinking in politics, business, law and medical ethics, among other fields.

## WHY STUDY RS (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)?

"The subject studies how humans understand the world around them. We consider how we make our moral choices and try to provide clues to life's bigger questions. We take part in plenty of debates and look at the study of philosophical, theological and ethical theories which underpin and structure our world today." *Abbie*

*"When I leave school I hope to take a year to see the world then study Philosophy at university, either Durham or St Andrew's before finally pursuing a career in sales. Philosophy can lead to almost any career; politics, law etc. I have studied Religious Studies, Biology, Sociology and Psychology." Annabel*

British life. All universities and employers recognise the importance of this subject. The subject can lead to degrees or careers in law, theology and religious studies, philosophy, history, medicine, scientific research, police force, teaching, civil service and politics among others.

## ADVICE ON ENTRY

The specifications build on, but do not depend on, the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE Religious Studies. Grade 5 at GCSE Religious Studies is preferred.

## READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Ahluwalia, *Foundations for Study of Religion*
- Jordan, Tate & Lockyear, *Philosophy of Religion*
- Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*
- Clarke, *Questions about God*
- Burns & Law, *Philosophy for AS & A2*
- Palmer, *The Question of God*
- Dawkins, *The God Delusion*
- Vardy, *The Thinker's Guide to God*
- Swinburn, *Is there a God*
- Cole, *Philosophy of Religion*
- Vardy, *The Puzzle of God*

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lesson activities are varied and range from lively discussions, debates, retrieving information from texts and analysing these, teacher led sessions, use of audio visual clips, news articles and student led sessions." *Charles*

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

## MIGHT LEAD TO...

RS (Philosophy and Ethics) is one of the fastest growing A Levels for the reason that the thinking skills learnt at this level are applicable to many aspects of 21st century

