

St Peter's students say...

“I am thoroughly enjoying the course, particularly Philosophy, it's informed and widened my mind set to new ideas...lessons are interactive...I'm looking forward to what this year will bring.”

Former student (Year13)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course

A level Religious Studies

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in Religious Education/Studies or Philosophy & Ethics. At least a grade 5 would also be desirable, due to the nature of the course, in English Language or Literature.

Why study Religious Studies?

A Religious Studies qualification shows universities and employers that you have the ability to analyse, evaluate and be critical. Most importantly it offers students the opportunity to explore the 'big' questions and examine a variety of different world views, allowing them to contemplate the meaning of life and their own morality.

Course content

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

This paper helps students to explore some of the main contemporary philosophical issues and questions about religion, such as belief in God or the conviction that life has both meaning and purpose. It provides a relevant and challenging context for exploring the particular beliefs, values and practices that characterise religious communities. In turn, it provides a sound basis for understanding and reflecting on the contemporary influence of religion, the views of those who do not share a religious belief and the impact of these factors on people's lives.

Students will engage with, for example, arguments and debates on religious and non-religious views of life, which focus on some key areas of controversy that shape modern views of the world, such as the problem of evil and suffering.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

This paper is focused on exploring both common ground and controversy in dealing with issues that arise in the areas of morality and religion in the context of the modern world. It will help students to study some of the underlying ideas and concepts of these issues, as well as questions and issues about how ethical and religious ideas and solutions may be applied in practice in contemporary social, political and personal situations.

In this paper, students will study issues and practical problems such as equality, war and peace and sexual ethics. These issues and problems will provide a sufficient balance of breadth and depth for students to acquire the skills they need to address a wide range of contemporary moral dilemmas and to progress to further study.

Paper 3: New Testament Studies

The content for this paper comprises a study of extended textual material. This study is set in a historical context so that students can become familiar with some of the more technical language and terminology used in the texts. It is also set in the context of the specific study of the Gospel texts, and involves a detailed understanding of the nature of selected passages of text as well as the scholarly and critical methods used today to study the text of the New Testament. There is a focus on understanding the Gospel teaching about how the first Christians understood the New Testament text and how they expressed and interpreted the relationship between Jesus and God.

Assessment

The course is delivered over two years and assessment is comprised of a two hour written examination for each paper.

Progression after Sixth Form & Career opportunities

An A level in Religious Studies has been used by students who wish to study Theology or to enter the Ministry. However, many students use their A level in Religious Studies to enter the Police Force, study Journalism or Law, go into Public Relations (PR), enter the Medical/ Caring Profession or other customer services related work.

For more information contact Head of Department:

Mrs A. Miles - arai@stpetersacademy.org.uk