

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered how it all began? What is God really like – is there a God? In any case what has religion to do with today's society – how do we tell the difference between right and wrong?

If you are interested in finding out the answer to any of these and many other questions, then Religious Studies is the course for you.

As a Catholic College, we draw heavily on the Roman Catholic Tradition but we also believe that in today's multicultural and multiethnic society we need to promote respect for those of different cultures and religions.

SINGLE AS

Content

Module	Assessment
Ethics What are the ethical issues surrounding abortion and euthanasia? What is the nature and value of human life to a religious person? How would a utilitarian approach issues of right and wrong? What are the main concepts of Fletcher's Situation Ethics?	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes January
Religion, Philosophy and Science Do miracles lead to a belief in God? Is there a conflict between science and religion? Is there sufficient evidence from design that God exists? Can science be religious?	Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes June

How is the course delivered?

Right from the word go you will experience a very active approach to build up your skills and knowledge. Among the methods we use are problem solving, teaching other students, group work, research using the LRC and Internet and contemporary film clips.

Entry requirements

To study AS Religious Studies you need to have 5 GCSE's at grade C or better including a grade C or better in English Language. Please note that the entry requirements for an AS programme depend upon the number of courses you intend to take.

What skills and interests do I need?

Perhaps the most difficult skill you need to have is the ability to approach the subject from an objective viewpoint. That is to say that you will need to put to one side your own beliefs and prejudices and look at the facts as they stand. You must also be able to apply the theories you study to modern day issues. You will need to be able to read and extract information from scholarly texts and clearly explain this in your own words. On a regular basis you will be required to write essays of 1000 to 2000 words in length. You have an early opportunity to test your skills in the January module.

How does it build upon studies at Key Stage 4?

Religious Studies covers such a wide area of human thought that any knowledge you can bring to it can enhance your study. It does of course build on some GCSE Religious Studies modules, especially those dealing with ethics and the philosophy of religion, but Religious Studies is, as you have just seen, also about skills, such as analysis, interpretation and communication, so the skills used in GCSE Maths and languages will be very useful to you in Religious Studies.

How is the course assessed?

You can expect regular exam based assignments to confirm your knowledge and understanding and a mock exam at the end of each module. Coaching will be given in essay writing and exam technique. There are two module exams, one in January and one in June. Candidates will be able to resit each module, but you will need to pass the AS course overall before proceeding to A2.

A2 LEVEL

Content

Module	Assessment
Religion & Ethics How free are your actions or are they just the inevitable outcome of a series of events? Is it more important to do the right thing than to be the right sort of person? Does religious teaching on sex and relations still have a place in society today? Does science have morals?	Written Exam One and a half hour June
Religion and Contemporary Society The challenges posed by the practice of religion today. Religious impact on family life. The structure, nature and role of a faith community. Interfaith relations and dialogue.	Written Exam One and a half hour June

How is the course delivered?

The teaching methods will be similar to those employed within the AS course. However, it is expected that students will have developed as independent learners and thus take more responsibility for their own learning

Entry requirements

Students wishing to take A2 Religious studies must achieve a pass grade at AS. If that grade is an E, you will need to resit an AS module and attend additional support sessions.

How is the course assessed?

You can expect regular exam based assignments to confirm your knowledge and understanding and a mock exam at the end of each module. Coaching will be given in essay writing and exam technique. There are two module exams both in June.

Progression routes

There are a number of work situations where knowledge, understanding and empathy of religious beliefs, traditions and practices are helpful. A/AS Religious Studies also develop many transferable skills such as organising, assessing and evaluating information, sensitive interpretation of written information and effective communication. Students with A/AS Religious Studies develop a wide range of skills that enable them to move into further studies at degree level and beyond or into employment.

Enrichment Activities

Rome – Join us for an incredible pilgrimage to the Eternal City



Durham Sixth Form Conference

Meet up with over 2000 students from across the north of England for a day of stimulating lectures at Durham University

The Theology of.....

Discover the theology behind one of London's finest shows – last year we saw Les Miserables and Billy Elliot.



Further Information

Please contact Len Collings, email len.collings@stmarys-sfc.ac.uk

Full specification can be found at www.aqa.org.uk go to publications.

NOTES:

**St Mary's College
Saltersgill Avenue
Middlesbrough
TS4 3JP**

Tel: (01642) 814680

www.stmarys-sfc.ac.uk

Fax: (01642) 819624