Religion, Philosophy and Ethics - A Level

Subject Leader: Mr Lines

Syllabus: AQA Religious Studies

Course Specification: 7062

Course Overview
A-Level RPE explores **Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Christianity** as an academic subject built on analysing arguments rather than just memorising beliefs. You'll investigate big questions about God, reality, morality, and the role of religion in the modern world, drawing on influential thinkers and contrasting ideas. The course develops skills in logical reasoning, evaluation, discussion, and extended writing, with most assessment through essays. It provides strong preparation for degrees such as **theology, philosophy, law, politics, history, sociology, and psychology**, and can lead to careers in **education, journalism, public policy, social work, law, and roles in community and charity sectors**, as well as any profession that values critical thinking and communication.

Course Requirements
5 GCSEs graded 5 or above, including Maths at grade 5 and English at grade 6.
Grade 7 in Religious Studies required.

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics

Section A: Philosophy of religion
- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death.

Section B: Ethics and religion
- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant.

Component 2: The study of Christianity and dialogues

Section A: The study of Christianity
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality
- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.
- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.
- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

Assessment

You will be assessed by two 3-hour written exams at the end of year 13 (one for component 1, and one for component 2).

Each paper is worth 100 marks and constitutes 50% of the overall A-level.

Additional Information

The full details of all units studied will be given to all students – as will the 'weighting' accorded to each unit. Reading lists and past paper questions will also provide crucial support for students.

