



Religious Studies - A Level (OCR)

Does God exist? Do we have souls? Is there an afterlife? Is it acceptable to help someone to die if it ends their pain? A Level Religious Studies examines these ideas and other religious, philosophical, and ethical issues and debates as well as asking what the great philosophers and religious thinkers had to say about them. You will also explore the main teachings of Buddhism, culminating in an optional residential trip to a Buddhist Centre in Cumbria.

This course is available for international students, if you are applying as an international student please click [here](#).

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Topics covered can include:

- Buddhism is unusual for being the only major religion that does not revolve around a belief in God. You will study the main teachings and practices of Buddhism and ask questions such as - What happens to Buddhists when they die? How does meditation lead to enlightenment? Why don't Buddhists believe in a soul?
- Philosophy of Religion explores different arguments for the existence of God and examines the challenge to religious belief from the problem of evil. Other topics studied include the issues with religious experience and whether the soul is something spiritual and separate from the body or just thoughts within the brain
- Ethics explores what it means to say that an action is right or wrong or that a person is good or bad. You will consider the role that conscience can play in our decision-making. You will also examine ethical dilemmas that surround issues of life and death.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

You will need:

- Grade 5 or above, and at least one grade 6 or above, in GCSE English Language plus one other written subject, such as History, Geography, Humanities, English Literature, Business, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Drama and Film Studies
- Three further GCSEs at grade 4 or above

If you wish to study 4 A Levels, you will need 7 GCSEs at grade 7 or above, including two at grade 8.

All applicants must have an interview to confirm that A Levels are suitable for them.

When applying for an A Level programme at City and Islington, please refer to the general entry requirements on our [A Level Courses](#) page as well as the subject-specific details listed above.

Start Date: 2 September 2024

Duration: 2 Years

Attendance: Full Time

Location: Angel Sixth Form College

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through three written exams at the end of the second year of the course.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

SCHOOL LEAVERS

If you will be aged 16, 17 or 18 on 31st August prior to the start date of your course and you have the legal right to remain in the UK for the duration of your programme then your study with us will be free. Please see [here](#) for the documents you will need to show us.

Some courses will have other associated costs, such as for specialist materials and trips. Many of our students are eligible for financial support, see [here](#) for details.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER?

Students who study Religious Studies develop rigorous critical thinking skills, empathy and compassion useful in a range of public-facing roles such as medicine, law, the civil service, charity work, counselling, journalism and social work among others.

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