

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A Level Course

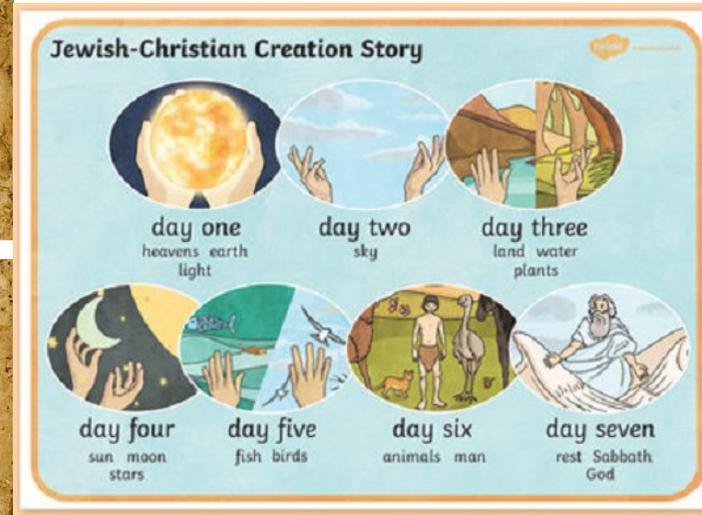
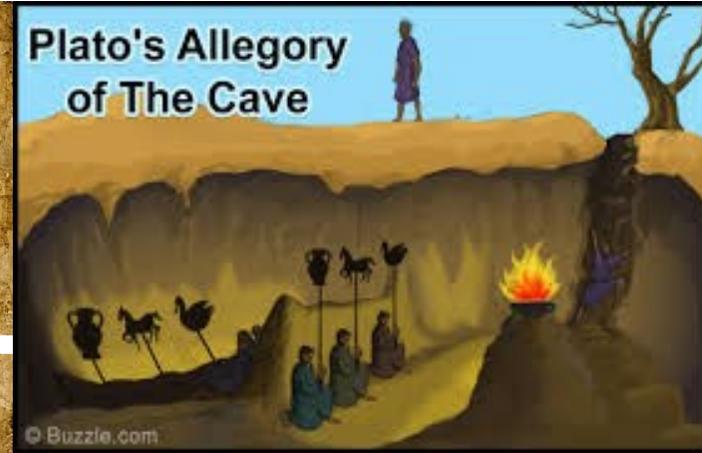
Description

The aim of A Level Religious Studies is to encourage you to know and understand:

- the best thinking about morality – matters of right and wrong;
- the best thinking about how God, human beings and their lives should be understood – Philosophy of Religion;
- the best thinking on the Christian faith – what does it mean to be a Christian in the 21st Century?
- How to present evidence, arguments and evaluate ideas.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Average: 4.8. GCSE grade 5 in English, grade 5 in RE if taken



Progression

This A level is well respected by universities as challenging students to show skills in; Critical thinking – especially in the philosophy section; Evaluation – especially in the ethics section; Reasons behind beliefs – especially in the Christian thinking section.

As well as those headlines, students will show their ability to use their own and other people's ideas, their ability to read, understand and process texts. For these reasons, the course could take you in any one of a wide number of directions. Some past students have gone on to Religious Studies or Philosophy at University, others into psychology, sociology, or law while others have gone to apprenticeships.



Course Details

Philosophy of religion

Learners will consider questions such as:

- How do the mind and body work together?
- What is the human soul?
- How can we show that God exists using our thinking and our observations?
- What is religious experience and can we learn anything from it?
- How can Christians understand the existence of evil in a world made by God?
- What is God like?
- If God is completely different to our material world, can our words ever properly describe God?

Ethics and religion

Learners will consider questions such as:

- How can we know what is right and wrong?
- Is being good built in to human nature?
- Should we decide right and wrong differently in each situation?
- Is there just one basic rule for right and wrong that every other rule is based on?
- When, if ever, should we choose deliberately to end life?
- Should businesses follow moral rules or are they free to pursue profit however they choose?
- What are we talking about when we use the words 'good' and 'bad', 'right' and 'wrong'?
- What is our conscience and when, should we obey it?
- Is there moral guidance for sexual relationships or is that a completely private matter?

Developments in Christian thought

Learners will consider modern answers (and a few older ones) to questions such as:

- What are human beings?
- What happens when we die?
- Can we know if God exists?
- Who or what was Jesus?
- How should Christians act and be good people?
- How does Christianity relate to other faiths?
- How do issues of gender (e.g. feminism) relate to religion and society?
- Does religion have an important role in modern society or is it just a personal matter?
- How do Christians make their faith "good news to the poor"?
- Was Karl Marx right about wealth and class issues? How does that relate to Christianity?



"I really enjoy the discussions and arguments that the subject involves. There's plenty to think about!"



Further Information

Course Leader: Mrs S Howard

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Examination board: OCR

www.ocr.org.uk