

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Year 12 A Level RE (OCR Specification)

Curriculum Aim:

The OCR A Level in Religious Studies will encourage learners to:

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

OCR's A Level Religious Studies course aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them. The curriculum aims to:

- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Link to prior learning: The OCR A Level in Religious Studies will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE (9–1). Learners will be introduced to a more advanced approach to Religious Studies, and will develop a deeper understanding of the beliefs, teachings and philosophy they study.

Rationale of sequencing:

Students study the Philosophy of Religion content, alongside the Religious Ethics unit in the Autumn and Spring terms. In the final Summer term students study Development of Christian thought. The sequence of lessons is based on the recommended sequence advised by the exam board.

	Focus / Topic	Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Autumn 1	Ancient Philosophical Influences Natural Law	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of knowledge of Plato and Aristotle. Critical analysis and evaluation of the St Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law theory.	Rigorous study of sources of evidence Critical analysis skills in order to construct balanced, informed arguments in response to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas	Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of Plato, Aristotle & Aquinas. Regular past paper exam questions
Autumn 2	Soul, Mind & Body Situation Ethics	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of the soul, body & mind of Plato, Aristotle, Descartes. Critical analysis and evaluation of Joseph Fletcher's Situation ethics.	Evaluation skills Discussion skills	Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of the soul, mind and body & situation ethics. Regular past paper exam questions Assessment week (November)
Spring 1	Arguments for God based on reason & experience	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of Anselm, Gaunilo, Kant, James.		Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of Kantian ethics. Regular past paper exam questions

	Kantian Ethics	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of Kant.		
Spring 2	The problem of evil Utilitarianism Euthanasia & Business Ethics	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of Augustine, Irenaeus & Hick. Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of Bentham, Mill, Singer. Application of ethical theories to issues linked to Euthanasia & Business		Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of the problem of evil & Utilitarianism. Past paper exam questions Assessment week (February)
Summer 1	Augustine on human nature Death and Afterlife Knowledge of God's existence The person Jesus Christ	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of knowledge of Augustine. Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of Aquinas, John Hick, Augustine. Critical analysis and evaluation of the sources of authority that apply to the person Jesus		Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of Augustine. Regular past paper exam questions
Summer 2	Christian Moral Principles Christian Moral Action	Critical analysis and evaluation of the works and theories of John Hick, Tilich, Pope Francis & Bonhoeffer.		Exam style questions to apply knowledge and understanding of the person Jesus Christ & past paper exam. End of Year Exams (June)

Further Information

A Level RE specification <https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

