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Teacher: Mrs K Burke, Mrs C Dunn
Examination Board: WJEC

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course Outline

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

AS and A2 has real value-added features, explaining aspects of human life and existence, which are of perennial interest to everyone who thinks about the world and our place in it. Religious Studies is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion. The course deals with various ethical issues and encourages students to use an enquiring, critical and empathetic approach to the study of Christianity and Islam. AS and A2 in Religious Studies is about analysing and evaluating the views of others and substantiating their own. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate views against those of scholars past and present and those of their teacher.

HOW CAN I DEVELOP MY FULL RANGE OF SKILLS BY STUDYING THIS WORK?

As well as covering advanced level study of Religious Studies this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you choose to do afterwards. The key skills that you can develop during this course are communication, working with others, independent learning and problem solving.

Development of these key skills will help you with your learning as well as helping you move into higher education or employment.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS LIKE?

Students will explore a range of topics in Religion and Ethics and Islam. You will be expected to research additional material, discuss in detail the strengths and weaknesses of the theories and construct sound and logical arguments.

Entry Requirements

A genuine interest in Ethical issues, Christianity and Islam
Recommended prior learning – Grade C in GCSE.

What Will I Study?

AS LEVEL TOPICS (YEAR 12)

Religion and Ethics: A study of ethical theories (Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism) and the relationship between religion and morality and applied ethics, e.g. sexual orientation, sex outside marriage and the purpose of marriage. The applied ethics will be taught through the Christian perspective.

Islam: The major beliefs about Islam and how it is relevant in society today.

A2 LEVEL TOPICS (YEAR 13)

Religion and Ethics: A further study of ethical theories including Aristotle's Virtue Theory, Kant's Moral Theory, the Ethics of War and abortion.

Synoptic Paper. Life, death and the afterlife

How Will I Be Assessed?

Students will sit two exam papers at AS Level, each being 1 hour 15 minutes. At A2 students will sit one exam paper and a synoptic essay question. Each exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes in length.

Career Opportunities And Progression:

WHAT COULD I GO ON TO DO AT THE END OF THIS COURSE?

Successful completion of this A Level will give you access to a range of career and higher education opportunities. This course will provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills. These include the skills of collecting, synthesising, and interpreting information from a range of sources the findings of this research will need to be effectively communicated. You will also be required to identify and develop the links between the different parts of the subject that you have studied. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Religious Studies combines well with almost all other humanities such as English, History, Geography and Sociology. In addition if taken with Sciences or Mathematics, Religious Studies will give you a broad-based curriculum.

SKILLS GAINED:

Religious Studies will encourage the student to develop the following skills:

Recall, select and deepen knowledge

Identify, investigate and analyse questions and issues arising from them

Use appropriate and correct language and terminology

Interpret and evaluate relevant concepts

Communicate by using reasoned argument substantiated by evidence

Made connections between areas of study and other aspects of experience

Students will be enquiring, critical and empathetic