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URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
& WIMBLEDON COLLEGE  
SIXTH FORM

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# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

at Ursuline High School

LEVEL: A level

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION NUMBERS: H573/01, H573/02 and H573/03

SEPTEMBER 2021  
URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
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#### WHAT WILL I STUDY IN THIS SUBJECT?

Religious Studies at A level is a very different subject to the Religious Studies you will have studied at GCSE.

The Religious Studies A level course gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about:

- Why are we here?
- How should we behave?
- What happens to us when we die?
- How do religious beliefs explain and explore their beliefs

Religious Studies involves some major academic disciplines such as Development in Christian Thoughts (Theology), Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. Consequently you will study some of the following themes:

- Development in Christian Thoughts - the nature of God; Christology; Revelation and debates about interpreting the bible; some analysis of biblical texts; religious belief in contemporary pluralist and secular society; religion and Feminist debates; exploring the writing of key scholars.
- Moral Philosophy - the major ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics; ethical theories from religious perspective, such as Natural Law and Situation Ethics; application of ethical theories to issues in Medical Ethics, Sexual Ethics and Business Ethics; what do we mean by Free Will, Conscience, Right, Wrong.
- Philosophy of Religion - possible arguments for/against the existence of God; the 'problem of suffering'; analysis of Religious Experience and Miracles; the challenge to religious belief of science and sociology; analysis of religious language.

#### WHAT SKILLS AND INTERESTS DO I NEED FOR THIS SUBJECT?

- Inquisitive nature - Religious Studies is about asking questions
- an interest in debating and in-depth discussion
- a willingness to accept that nothing can be known for certain

- an interest to develop your own informed opinions on issues that matter to society.

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

In common with all the new A level qualifications the full A level qualification is the result of a two year course. It is assessed by ‘terminal’ exams in the summer of Year 12 and final A level exams in summer of Year 13. Exams will be a set of three 2 hour exams.

- **AO1: Knowledge & Understanding Weighting 40%**  
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including:  
religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching; influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies; cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice; approaches to the study of religion and belief.
- **AO2: Analysis, Evaluation & Application Weighting 60%**  
Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

Unit	Mode	Assessment	weighting
H573/01	Philosophy of Religion	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A level
H573/02	Religion and Ethics	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A level
H573/03	Developments in Christian thoughts (Theology)	120 marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A level

#### WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS COMBINE WELL WITH THIS SUBJECT?

Classical  
Civilisation

Psychology

Sociology

Geography

History

Sciences

English Literature

Politics

Maths

Music

Art

Most Subjects

#### TO WHAT FURTHER OR HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES COULD THIS SUBJECT LEAD?

Since Religious Studies develops skills of objectivity, listening, understanding, empathy, verbal and interpersonal communication, it is accepted by every institution as a valuable qualification for course entry no matter what your career path.

There are many well recognised courses in Religious Studies, Philosophy and Theology at University. These may be followed by a specialist course with the intention of continuing into Vocational or Post Graduate studies. In addition to the subjects mentioned above, it is often considered an excellent 'fourth option' for students considering Scientific degree courses such as Medicine.

#### WHAT CAREERS COULD THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

- ✓ Degree in Theology
- ✓ Psychology
- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Law
- ✓ Race Relations
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ World Development
- ✓ Media
- ✓ Industrial Relations
- ✓ Politics

#### RECOMMENDED READING:

- *Newspapers (broadsheets) for information about controversial issues in Medicine Law and Religion.*
- *Journals (specialist magazines) about Philosophy and Ethics - these can often be found in libraries*
- *Vardy - The Puzzle of God*
- *Philosophy of Religion for A level by A. Jordan/N. Lockyer/E. Tate*
- *The following websites:*

#### USEFUL LINKS:

<http://www.ziplink.net/cti-bin/cgiwrap/kerama/a-plnet/advent/cathen/cathen.htm>  
<http://catholic.org/index.html>  
<http://www.episteminks.com>  
<http://scu.edu/ethics/publications/iie>  
<http://www.ethics.acusd.edu/index.html>  
<http://religioustolerance.org>  
<http://eartham.edu/peters/phillinks.html>  
<http://www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools>  
<http://thetablet.co.uk>

<http://www.educationindex.com/theo>  
<http://www.staplefordcentre.org>

#### ENTRY CRITERIA

Please refer to the Entry Criteria Insert to understand the Pathway requirements.

The entry criteria for this subject is: grade 6 in Religious Education AND Grade 5 in Maths AND Grade 5 in English Language.