

Longley Park Sixth Form Transition Pack

A Level Religious Studies



What will I study?

This course is split into three sections, with an exam for each one. This course will make you think in ways you may never have done before.

1. Philosophy - What is truth? How do we know what is real? Where does our knowledge come from? How can we be sure that what we think has any value? If you are interested in these ideas and want to discuss issues such as why there is evil in the world, or how we can argue for or against the existence of transcendental beings and different forms of divinity, then you'll love this unit. We'll consider the use of language, reincarnation, karma, and the value of science. We'll also consider Faith, agnostic, atheist and secular positions.

2. Ethics - How do we know what is right and what is wrong? How can we judge how to act in any given situation? Are there absolute duties? Do rules apply in all situations?

What is the importance of context? What is the importance of social expectation?

Can all different belief structures follow the same rules? Who should create law? We have to be able to discuss these issues in relation to gender, equality, ethnicity, war, peace, sexual ethics, medical ethics, and the environment, so if you are interested in these types of questions then you'll find this unit fascinating.

3. Religion - How did Abrahamic Religions develop? What are the key points in history over the past 4000 years? How does Christianity and Judaism link to Islam? What are the influences in both directions? How do Muslims practice their belief? What are the splits within Religious traditions, and why are they there? How are different scriptures relevant to believers? If you are interested in the issues facing religion in relation to law, gender, and correct interpretation of messages in the modern world then you will also really enjoy this unit.

What can I go on to do?

An A level studying philosophy, ethics and religion allows you to understand the world around you, and your place in it. Because you are developing skills in relation to perspective, tolerance, interpretation and critical analysis this course will allow you to work in careers such as:

- Barrister.
- Chaplain.
- Civil Service Fast Streamer.
- Health service manager.
- Local government officer.
- Marketing executive.
- Newspaper journalist.
- Paralegal.

What can I do to prepare?

The best way to prepare is to:

Watch TV shows such as 'The Good Place'. They get you to think about ethical issues.

Research Plato and Aristotle. What did they think about truth and the soul? Who do you agree with?

Read 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaardner. It introduces you to different ways of thinking.

Watch 'The Matrix' - how do we know what is real?

What do you think is wrong with society and humanity? How could we make it better?

Discuss this with a friend or a family member or write your ideas down. Try to acknowledge different positives and negatives in different opinions, even if you don't necessarily agree with all of them.

Get Ready for Religious Studies -Philosophy and Ethics

We know choosing courses can be daunting and we're here to help you make the right decisions for the next few years that lie ahead. To help you get a better feel for the course that you've chosen, we've put together some tasks for you to have a go at

over the summer. These tasks are not compulsory but doing them might give you a clearer picture about what you will be studying and hopefully give you a bit of a head start in September. Give it a go. Project You has started!

1. What is reality? How can we be sure this world is Real? How do we know what we know? Watch 'The Matrix' (1999) – how does this classic action film address these questions?
2. Consider the case of 'Jim and the Indians' – Write a response...what would you do, and why?

'Jim is a soldier in the US cavalry in the 19th Century on the western frontier. He is supposed to fight against native American 'Indians', and kill them when necessary. However he refuses to do this as he believes it is unethical. Eventually his captain becomes very frustrated and decides to deal with the situation. He lines up 20 'Indians' and gives a choice. Jim either kills one 'Indian' so that the others will go free, or he refuses to do so and the captain will kill all 20. These are the only two options Jim has...what should he do?'

3. Research the concept of 'the inconsistent Triad'. Create an information sheet

- ✓ Define the term
- ✓ Explain the difference between 'Natural' and 'Moral' Evil
- ✓ Define the term 'Theodicy'
- ✓ Define the term 'Freewill defence'
- ✓ Can an Abrahamic God really exist if there is evil in the world? Why/why not?

4. Write me an essay...what is the meaning of life, and why? **MAYBE RESEARCH SOME IDEAS FIRST!** You could justify your response by arguing against what you feel 'the meaning of life' isn't? **GO FOR IT!**