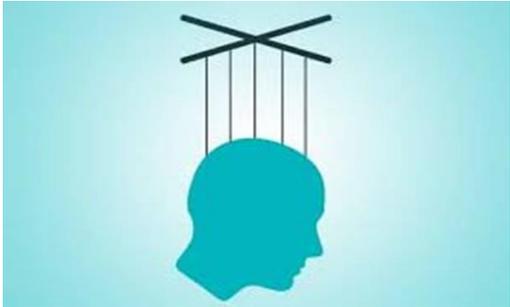


A Level Religious Studies

The Course content → WJEC Eduqas GCE A LEVEL in RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Here is a brief look at the types of questions we will be asking in the three parts of the course



The teachers →



Meet the teachers who will deliver the TWO years of the course.

The Students →

Find out where some of them went and what they thought of the course.
See some examples of their work.

Christianity → The Religious questions



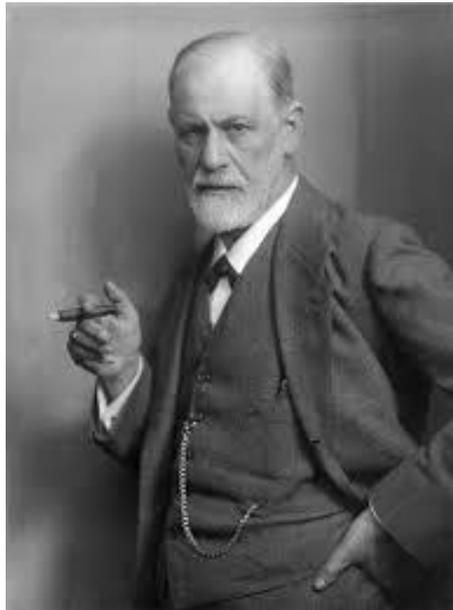
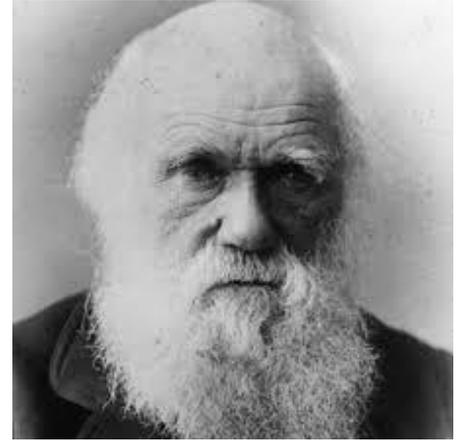
How should Christians view other faiths?
Is Christianity about what you BELIEVE or what you DO?
Are Science and Christianity compatible?
How does Jesus' death bring salvation?
Is God female?
Is the UK a Christian country?
How historically reliable is the Bible?



Philosophy → The BIG questions



Does the universe have a Cause?
Does the complexity of the world prove that it needs a designer?
Can Evolution explain where we came from?
Is God just an illusion?
Does evil prove that there cannot be a God?
Does language about God even have any meaning if we can't see him?



Ethics → The Moral questions

Does morality even exist? Where does it come from?

Should decisions be made to benefit the majority?

Should ill people be able to end their lives legally?

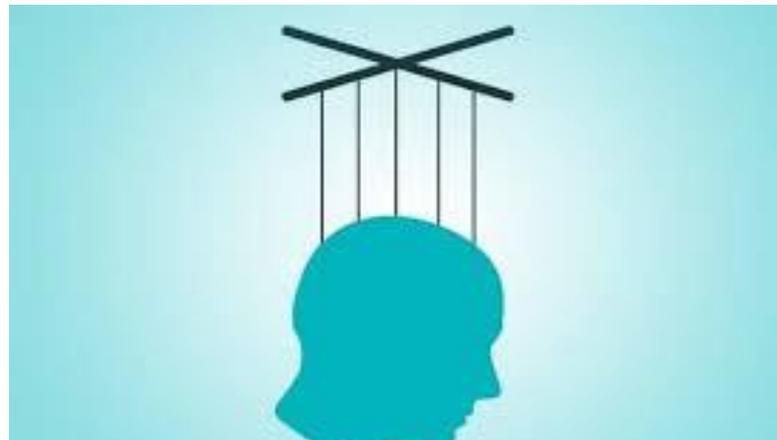
Is abortion ethical?

Should we execute criminals?

What is the most moral way to manage immigration?

Do we need nuclear weapons to keep the peace?

Does free will exist?



The teachers → Miss. Lee

Hi, I'm Miss Lee and I have been teaching for 10 years. I have recently started teaching the philosophy section of year 12 and have really enjoyed the discussions and conversations that open up from the topics we cover.

When I'm not teaching I enjoy spending time with my two gorgeous boys and seeing what adventures we can get up to.



The teachers → Mr. O'Kane

Hi! My name is Mr. O'Kane and I have been teaching A level Religious Studies here at OLCC for 14 years!

I particularly enjoy discussions about free will and the consequences for ethics. The relationships I have with the sixth form students are probably the highlight of my job. When I am not teaching I enjoy riding my bike up big hills and running around after these two little monkeys!

Hope to see you in September.



Miss Mwale

Hi,
I'm Miss Mwale. (Pronounced Mwa-leh.) I recently started teaching A-Level Philosophy and have enjoyed exploring the existence of God and the different things scholars have had to say about it over time.
When I'm not teaching I enjoy getting lost in the marvel and DC universes.

BA (Hons): Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

PGCE: Secondary Religious Education with QTS

Career Path:

Primary school

Secondary school

Sixth Form

University
(Undergrad)

University
(Postgrad)

Teaching



So do I have to want to be the Pope?

You have lots of options following A-Level RS.

It might be directly related to the course or a stepping stone to something different.

Have a look at what some of last years students are doing as well as what they thought of the course.



Maisy Gallacher

University of Cumbria



Studying BA(HONS) Primary Education: Inclusion with SEND (with QTS)

Studying RE was always a lesson I enjoyed attending. The reason I chose to study this subject, in the first place, was down to the teachers and level of support I got through school. Within the 2 years of studying RE at A level, it really opened my eyes because of the variety of topics covered. My favourite topics were the ones that included debates as we always had interesting discussions!!!



Why choose Religious Education at A level?

RE has help me develop as a person.

A level RE equips you with all the essential qualities both Universities and Employers look for (e.g. Critical Thinking, Analytical Skills Written & Verbal Communication, Constructing arguments). I enjoyed the opportunity of engaging in both Philosophical and Ethical debates on a range of current issues. – the course has gave me confidence to succeed in higher education and gain employment in the future whilst presenting valuable opportunities for personal development along the way!

The skills I have gained have allowed me to pursue my passion for the subject even further in my degree at UCLAN where I'm currently working towards a BA(Hons) in Philosophy - With the end goal of becoming a Teacher!

Lucy Richards

Studying Philosophy BA at the University of Leeds



I really enjoyed studying RE at A Level because we engaged in a huge range of topics within Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics that were super interesting.

The course opened me up to thinking about big ideas that **blew my mind** (such as the beginning of the Universe, the idea of Free Will v/s Determinism, the existence of morality, and so much more!).

Inspired to take this kind of thinking further, I am now studying Philosophy as a degree, which I am absolutely loving.

Faye Cheetham

When I selected my A level subjects, I purposefully made choices that would help me in both University course and my future career choice. RE was an obvious choice, it included Philosophy, Ethics and essay writing. All these areas have helped me on my university course already. RE is a great A level subject choice, particularly if you are considering a career in public service. Its filled with debate and interesting topics and I would recommend anyone to consider it as an A level choice.

Currently studying Paramedic Science BSc Hons at The University of Central Lancashire and working in the Emergency Ambulance Control Room.



Current student essay extracts →

Here are some
example
extracts from
the essays you
will be taught to
write during the
A- level.



Christianity → 'South American liberation theology is more political than it is religious.' Evaluate this view.

There is criticism, particularly from Catholic figures such as Pope Benedict XVI, about the secularisation of Christian values under liberation theology. This criticism is, more specifically, on the focus on orthopraxy over orthodoxy teaching which leads to the eventual politicisation of what should be fundamentally a theological discussion.

There is truth to the above statement in that liberation theology has a basis in Marxist-Communist ideology which is very much political and action-based rather than merely religious. The work of priest and revolutionary liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez is extremely focused on orthopraxy particularly, he himself stated that 'The commitment of... service comes first.'

Philosophy → Outline the Problem of Evil

For most people the most powerful objection to belief in the God of classical theism is the fact of Evil. The sheer amount and appalling nature of human suffering in particular makes belief in a loving creator seem implausible.

The problem is often put like this?

If God is perfectly loving or benevolent , he must wish to abolish evil.

And if he is supremely powerful or omnipotent, he must be able to abolish evil.

But evil exists. Therefore God can not be both omnipotent and benevolent.

Ethics → Critically assess the claim that people are free to make moral decisions.

This is, and always has been, a hotly debated topic within today's society and media. To what extent can a wrongdoer be held culpable for their actions when so much of who they have become is dependent on things outside of their control? This is not only a moral question but also a judicial one as it has far ranging repercussions for how and why a legal system will punish its criminals.

This discussion has renewed vigour in recent years with the discovery of genetics and the resulting suggestion that we are to some extent genetically determined to become the people we become. The areas of psychology and philosophy also have much to add to this debate. But it is ultimately an ethical question; can a person be held responsible for their wrong doing (or indeed praised for their right actions) if who they are is even partially due to variables which are outside of their control such as genetics.

This area has been discussed within the area of free will and determinism for years with three main views developing.

Questions →

Please feel free to e-mail Mr. O’Kane if you have any questions regarding A-Level RS.

d.okane@olcc.lancs.sch.uk



People worth a google if you are intrigued.....

- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- David Hume
- William Paley
- St. Augustine
- Sigmund Freud
- Carl Gustav Jung
- Immanuel Kant
- Pope Francis
- Pope Benedict
- Richard Dawkins

