



Bloxham School

Theology (Religious Studies)

A Level





Why choose this subject?

A Level Theology at Bloxham leads to an A Level in Religious Studies. It is a valuable course in its own right, offering a respected academic discipline relevant to a range of careers, including Law, English, Arts and Humanities as well as Theology.

Students engage with the big questions in philosophy, ethics and modern life within a theological framework. They learn critical thinking, essay writing and research skills as they engage theologically with the world around them.

The nature of the course

Examination board:



Course content:

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics



Section A: Philosophy of Religion (DMMH)

- Arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering, religious experience, religious language, miracles, self, death and afterlife.

Section B: Ethics and Religion (MGP)

- Ethical theories, issues of human life and death, issues of animal life and death, Introduction to meta ethics, free will and moral responsibility, conscience, Bentham and Kant.

Course content:

Component 2: Study of Christianity and Dialogues



Section A: Study of Religion - Christianity (DMMH)

- Sources of wisdom and authority, God/gods/ultimate reality, self, death and afterlife, good conduct and key moral principles, expressions of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality, Religion and science, Religion and secularisation, Religion and religious pluralism.

Course content:

Component 2: Study of Christianity and Dialogues continued



Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and Christianity (DMMH)

- How Christianity is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and Christianity (MGP)

- How Christianity is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied

Course content: Skills



In addition to lessons covering course content, in the Lower Sixth there is one lesson per two-week cycle on Theology skills to help prepare students to tackle the study and examination demands of the course.

In the Upper Sixth, students do an exam-style timed essay in class once a fortnight.



Examination structure

- Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics (3 hours)
- Paper 2: Study of Christianity and Dialogues (3 hours)

Please don't be put off by the long exam papers: by the time students have studied Theology for two years, they find these exams no more demanding than the 3 x 2 hour exams for other subject.

What do we expect from candidates?



Students will be interested in the impact of religion on human culture, thought and experience, **but they do not have to be religious themselves in any way**: some of the best theologians are atheists.

They will be interested in current and historical religious ideas and willing to ask questions and challenge received ideas. They will learn to think clearly and critically, and to analyse and evaluate arguments carefully.

How is it taught?



The course will involve seminar-style teaching, including open discussion, research, essay writing and background reading.

It will draw on some of the work covered in GCSE courses, but students who have not studied Religious Studies for GCSE are able to take RS at A Level.

With which subjects can it be combined?



This is a useful subject for students to combine with any others, but it may appeal especially to those studying other Humanities subjects, Creative Arts, English or Politics.

It may provide a useful additional option for those doing sciences with a view to a medicine-related career.

Higher Education and Careers?

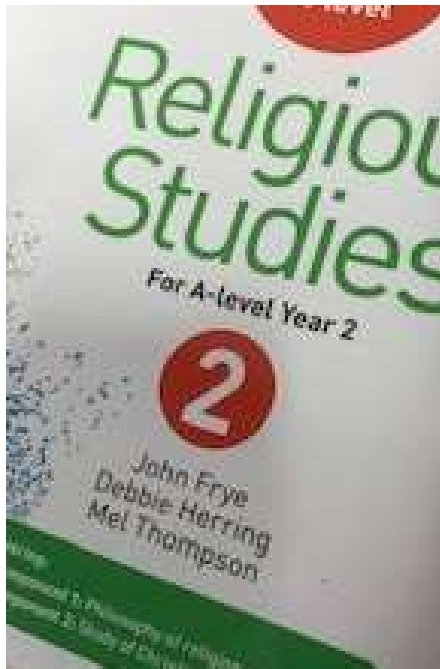


Religious Studies offers preparation for a wide range of further studies. Universities welcome both the content and the intellectual rigour that this course offers, and that fact that RS is strongly multidisciplinary makes it especially valuable to those students planning to study Law, Humanities, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Arts or Politics.

The Philosophy and Ethics content of the course also make it valuable for those who look to a career in a medical field.

Teaching Staff

Dr D.M.M. Herring
(Head of Department)



Revd M.G. Price