

EDUCATION EVOLVED

Religious Studies

Do you need RS GCSE to do this course?

No, not at all. RS A Level is very different from RS GCSE. There might be some overlap with the GCSE but you will not be disadvantaged from not taking it at GCSE.

Do you have to be religious?

No! The classes are often a mix of religious, agnostic and atheist students so a great variety of opinions to grapple with. An open and critical mind is all that is required.

Is there any coursework?

No, all exams. Your final grade will be comprised of you writing 9 long essays (3 essays per exam).

Is there a lot of reading and writing?

Yes, you will be reading original philosophical extracts and writing lots of essays throughout the course. You will receive plenty of support in this area.

Do we study lots of different religions?

No, we predominantly study Christianity here at St. Brendan's. We will sometimes refer to other religions, but the exam is on Christianity. Remember, two thirds of the course is actually Philosophy and Ethics too.

What subjects work best alongside RS?

It works well with most subjects actually, but I would recommend History, Politics, English, Sociology or Maths.

How does RS A Level differ from RPE?

RPE is a compulsory programme that all students take at the college to help develop your debating skills and other personal virtues. RPE is not examined and is only 45 minutes per week. RS A level is a Level 3 qualification and recognised in the same respect as any other A Level. You will be examined, and it will look at philosophical, ethical and religious issues in great depth.