
1. Introduction & Expectations

This handbook is designed to help you in your A Level Philosophy and Ethics journey and get the most out of this course. The handbook contains important information and guidance, including an overview of the topics you need to know, key dates, exam tips, recommended reading and resources, and a progress tracker.

A Level work is demanding and is a big leap from GCSE. You will need above all to bring a disciplined commitment to your work and a willingness to take some initiative. You will have to become an independent learner, and the sooner you achieve this the greater your success will be. You will be expected to not only read whatever you are specifically asked but also to read in depth around the topics. Additionally, you will have to further develop your study skills of making notes, organising your time and materials, presentation, essay writing and debating. We will give you help with these as the course unfolds.

Above all we want you to enjoy these two years. If you look on it as a team effort, with your teachers like coaches of a team, then success will be yours – but of course you have to take to the field and put in the training beforehand, and only you can do that.

The Philosophy and Ethics department at Southam College will be with you every step of the way, we want you to achieve your very best but above all, enjoy your Philosophical journey!

Aims and learning outcomes

OCR's A Level in Religious Studies will encourage learners to:

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

The **OCR A Level Religious Studies** course is divided into three components whose weightings are:

| Unit Code | Unit Title | % of A level |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| H573/01 | Philosophy of Religion | 33.3% |
| H573/02 | Religion and Ethics | 33.3% |
| H573/03 | Developments in Religious Thought (Christianity) | 33.3% |

Exams and Assessment

H573/1: Philosophy of Religion

You will answer 3 essay questions from a choice of 4. **Exam:** 2 hour written exam. 120 marks

H573/2: Religious and Ethics

You will answer 3 essay questions from a choice of 4. **Exam:** 2 hour written exam. 120 marks

H573/3: Developments of Religious (Christian) Thought

You will answer 3 essay questions from a choice of 4. **Exam:** 2 hour written exam. 120 marks

Full or part essays and knowledge tests on topics from the above components will feature frequently in this course. These will be self, peer or teacher assessed and feedback will be provided as required.

Expectations

1. You will arrive to every lesson punctually and with all **textbooks (unless stated otherwise), folders, pens** and other **note making equipment**.
2. **You will complete all homework set on time and with adequate levels of effort.** If you are unable to meet a deadline, **contact** your teacher **at least 24 hours before the deadline** by **e-mail or in person** and **request** an extension, especially if homework was an exam question. We want to support you as best as we can!
3. **If you miss any lessons**, for whatever reason, it is **your responsibility** to **catch up** by reading the textbook, and getting copies of class-notes and handouts from classmates.

We do hope you enjoy the course, and will be as successful as past students have been.

Welcome aboard!

Mrs A Thomas (Head of Philosophy and Ethics)

fox.a53@welearn365.com