



A-Level Religious Studies

Welcome to Religious Studies at Crossley Heath. We are absolutely delighted that you have chosen to study **A-level Philosophy, Ethics and Islam** with us — a powerful and thought-provoking subject that will challenge your thinking and expand your understanding of the world.

This course is about far more than just acquiring knowledge — it's about learning how to question assumptions, explore different worldviews, and think with clarity and compassion. You'll delve into profound philosophical questions, engage with ethical dilemmas that shape modern society, and explore the richness, depth, and relevance of Islamic beliefs and practices.

Whether you're considering a future in law, medicine, journalism, theology, politics, education, or any field that values critical thinking and moral insight, this subject will give you the tools to engage with complex issues and contribute meaningfully to the world around you.

You are now part of a curious, respectful, and supportive community of learners who are not afraid to ask big questions. We can't wait to hear your ideas, challenge your perspectives, and help you develop into a confident, thoughtful, and articulate thinker.

So, let's explore truth, ethics and faith together, and to celebrate your growth every step of the way.

Course Content

Philosophy	Ethics	Islam
1. Philosophical Language and Thought	1. Normative Ethics – Religious approaches	1. Foundations
2. The Existence of God	2. Normative Ethical Theories	2. Insight
3. God and the World	3. Applied Ethics	3. Living
4. Theological and Philosophical Development	4. Ethical Language: Meta-Ethics	4. Development
5. Religious Language: Negative, Analogical or Symbolic	5. Significant Ideas	5. Society
6. Religious Language: Twentieth Century Perspectives	6. Development in Ethical Thought	6. Challenges

A Level Religious Studies involves the study of three disciplines: Philosophy, Ethics and Islam. The jump from GCSE to A Level is substantial and the following transition tasks are designed to make it easier.

Exam Board and Specification: OCR Religious Studies (H573)

Link to Specification: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>



Bridging *work*

Philosophy of Religion

Task 1: Key Concepts & Research Tasks (1 hour)

- **Glossary & definitions:** prepare explanations for terms like *a priori/ posteriori*, *analytic/synthetic*, *inductive/deductive*, *omniscient/omnipotent/omnibenevolent/eternal*

- **Timeline creation:** trace major philosophers (Plato, Aristotle, Anselm, Aquinas, Hume, Hick, Swinburne, Wittgenstein), including dates and summaries of their key ideas.

- **Plato's Allegory of the Cave:** summarise the allegory and reflect on its insights into knowledge, society, and education.



Task 1: Video Learning (90 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs&index=2&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmTsS5xFA6k&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=9>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgisehuGOyY&index=10&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e9v_fsZB6A&index=11&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR

Task 1: Video Learning — Make Notes here...

Task 1: Essay Practice (1 hour)

Write a 500-word essay answering the question 'Can you prove the existence of God?' try use arguments such as the ontological, cosmological and teleological.

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Task 2: Video Learning (90 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8blys6JoEDw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_UfYY7aWKo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCGtkDzELAI>

Task 1: Video Learning — Make Notes here...

Task 2: Application (30 minutes)

The Government have decided to review the idea of legalising voluntary euthanasia in the UK.

Write a letter to the Parliament to persuade them to make euthanasia legal in the UK or to keep it illegal. Your letter must include: Your viewpoint on why euthanasia is moral or immoral and why you believe it, real life example cases to support your idea and the benefits you believe keeping euthanasia illegal/legal would have for the future.



Task 3: Key Terms & Research (30 minutes)

- Define and explain central concepts:
 - **God is One (Divinity and Unity)**, including *tawhid*, *Mu'tazilism*, *Ash'arism*, *Hanbalism*.
 - **Human Destiny**, discussing Qur'an-based views on life's purpose, afterlife, divine will, and human action.



Task 3: Reading & Reflecting (30 minutes)

- Research Qur'anic verses such as 112:1–4, 42:11, 3:190, and 23:12–13 to explore the theological basis of divine unity and existence.
- Examine viewpoints from Islamic theologians:
 - Al-Ghazali (Moderation in Belief)
 - Mu'tazili scholars (works by Shihadeh or Winter).

Task 3: Essay / Reflection (90 minutes)

Choose one question to explore in a 500 – 800-word response:

1. “How do Islamic arguments for tawhid compare with philosophical arguments for God’s existence?”
2. “What does Qur’an say about the afterlife, and how does that shape Muslim beliefs about ethics and free will?”