

Welcome to A-level Religious Studies 2026

We follow the OCR specification, and study the following components:

Philosophy of religion

Religion and ethics

Developments in religious thought

These are divided into three papers, which are each 2-hour examinations and make up 100% of your final grades. You can find the specification [here](#).

You will also need to buy a copy of the course textbook **OCR Religious Studies A Level Year 1 and AS** by Hugh Campbell <https://amzn.eu/d/035WS80B>

Bridging Work

Total time: approx. 2–3 hours

This work is designed to introduce you to key ideas we will study in Year 12 and help you begin thinking like a philosopher. It is not formally assessed, but we will refer to it in lessons in September.

Task 1: Philosophy-foundation

Listen to this podcast:

[Episode 1, Plato's Cave](#) until 42 minutes in.

Answer the following questions based on what you have heard.

1. Who is Plato?
2. What is the allegory of the cave?
3. Explain the rationale behind the allegory of the cave.
4. What is rationalism? How does Plato support it?
5. What are the Forms?
6. What are the Particulars? List any issues with this concept.

Write down any questions that Plato's philosophy has introduced.

Task 2: Ethics reading

Read the resource linked [here](#).

Answer the following questions

1. Explain the difference between Normative, Applied and Meta-ethics.

2. Make notes on the Meta-ethical theories of:
 - Emotivism
 - Subjectivism
 - Relativism
 - Divine Command theory
 - Natural Moral Law
3. Explain the two kinds of Deontic Ethics, giving examples of ethical approaches that fall into each type.
4. Create a brief biography for John Stuart Mill and Kant.

Optional Extension (not included in time): If you are interested, you may explore a philosophy-themed documentary, podcast or book from the recommended list

Documentaries / TV/ Film

1. The Good Place
2. The Matrix
3. Unorthodox

Books

1. The Blind Watchmaker, and/or The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
2. The Brothers Karamazov – Fyodor Dostoevsky
3. Candide – Voltaire

TED talks

1. Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions
2. Richard Dawkins – militant atheism
3. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists