



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

RELIGION ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“Three things cannot be long hidden:
the sun, the moon, and the truth.”

GAUTAMA BUDDHA

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy

Exam Board EDUQAS

What will I study?

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy (REP) is a linear, two year course, which offers students an exciting opportunity to experience in-depth study of three branches of Religious Studies: Buddhism, Religion & Ethics; and Philosophy of Religion.

2,500 years ago, the Eastern sage, Siddhartha Gautama, claimed to have discovered the truths of human reality, so becoming an 'awakened one' or Buddha. During the past century, **Buddhism** has gained popularity in the West, with concepts such as 'nirvana', 'karma', 'samsara', and the practice of meditation being widely used, but often misunderstood. Buddhism is studied through four themes: religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts and religious life; social and historical developments in religious thought; and religious practices/identity.

In **Religion and Ethics** classes, we explore the nature of ethical language and thought; whether morally good actions involve following rules or considering consequences; and to what extent we possess free will.

Philosophy of Religion covers arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; the nature and validity of religious experience; and analysing the meaning and function of religious language.

How will I be assessed?

The essay is the major form of assessment and regular essays are set throughout the course. A major task for all students is to learn to develop the skill of expressing complex ideas in writing.

There are three exams at the end of the second year. Each exam is designed to assess your investigation of, and response to, the many issues explored in the course.

What can I do with this subject?

The A Level qualification you will gain, Religious Studies, has a long pedigree and is a highly respected subject so a better question might be: What can't I do with it? Employers and universities know that this subject teaches people to think clearly and to express themselves coherently; the skills that you will develop in analysis and argument are valuable in a range of careers. Former students are accountants, personnel officers, solicitors, criminal psychologists, speech therapists, nurses, teachers and too many more to mention!



Our students say...

Throughout my time at Carmel, I have developed so many skills which I will be able to employ in later life, especially my ability to work independently.

Carmel is a college that never fails to help their students succeed. The Religion, Ethics & Philosophy course gives you a deeper insight into the bigger questions you've never heard answers to before, whilst combining them with the big religious concepts, highlighting the link that these two worlds clearly have. During my time here I took the opportunity to go to the 'Pursuit of Knowledge' conference, meeting some key philosophers on the course and widening my understanding about the thought-provoking arguments which the course offers. After Carmel, I will hopefully be going to Oxford University, specifically Christ Church College, to study a degree in Philosophy and Theology. It is through the help and encouragement from the staff at Carmel that I have been able to apply to such a university.



Megan Wellens
De La Salle

Studying:
Religion, Ethics & Philosophy,
English Language, English
Literature, Spanish

“God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. Yet his shadow still looms.”

Freidrich Nietzsche

What support will I receive?

The department is proud of its reputation for helping and supporting students. From beginning to end, staff are there to help you to achieve your full potential. Different teaching approaches are designed to bring out the best in you and if you want help and support outside class time, tutorials can be arranged to provide you with individual attention. You will find the course challenging – that’s to be expected from a subject preparing you for university – but you are never expected to struggle on your own!

What is the department like?

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy students study in the West Park building which provides a modern and spacious, state-of-the-art learning environment. Facilities include well resourced classrooms equipped with interactive white boards, multi-media projectors and wireless internet connection. Students also have access to a computer suite and study areas within the building.

What else will I do?

There are annual visits to university departments and a major Buddhist Centre in the UK. An exciting overseas trip is also being planned for the course. Extra-curricular activities take place regularly in the department, including a ‘Royal Institute of Philosophy’ certificated ‘Philosophy: The Classics’ course; and the student-run REP Society, featuring discussions, films, and guest speakers.

What the students say...

“Religion, Ethics & Philosophy is my favourite subject and I’m now looking to do Philosophy and Theology at university.”

“I’d given up on God and the whole religion thing. But at the end of this course I’m more open-minded and prepared to consider alternative points of view – I’ve really enjoyed exploring the case for atheism, but even this has its weaknesses.”

“The investigations component gave me a chance to choose a topic that I had become interested in because of Psychology. I read and researched about the mind in order to answer a question on something called ‘dualism’. Sounds impressive, but it’s really dealing with these questions: Are we just machines? What is consciousness? Is the mind the same as the brain? Do we have souls? What did Plato mean by the soul? So I’ve enjoyed doing something that has not only improved my essay writing skills but has expanded my knowledge in two A Level subjects!”



Our students say...

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy is a valuable A Level course to study as not only are the topics really interesting and relevant to the world today, but it also makes you a more logical and open-minded person.

I would fully recommend studying Religion, Ethics & Philosophy because it is an enjoyable subject with a wide range of topics, so there is something to interest everyone. It is an intellectually challenging course which has prepared me for the high standard of work expected at Carmel. I have been taught important transferable skills that can be applied to my other subjects, like essay writing and being able to express different ideas in coherent, balanced ways. The tutors are always willing to provide extra support, using tutorials and practice essays to improve your understanding.



Jessica Pepper
De La Salle

Studying:

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy,
Psychology, Biology, Chemistry,
Critical Thinking

Our students say...

Carmel is a friendly college with a mature approach to learning.

The teachers are very supportive and are fine with you contacting them whenever you need to, even outside of college hours, which I have found really useful. Through studying Philosophy I have acquired a wider awareness of the world around me and the bigger questions that it poses, whilst also developing an insight into what my true beliefs and morals are. It has enabled me to become more open to other people's views and opinions and therefore more balanced in my outlook on life. Philosophy has taught me that the ability to think in depth successfully is a vital skill that will prepare me for any future career. After Carmel I am hoping to study Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Leeds.



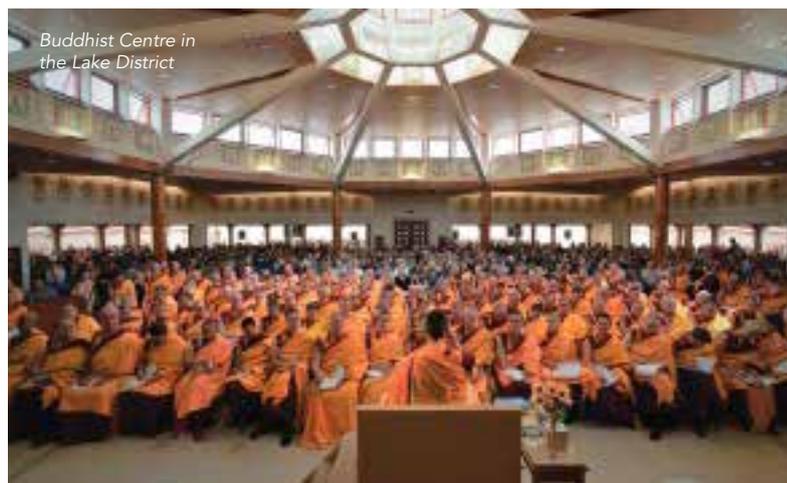
Amy Black
Archbishop Blanch

Studying:
Religion, Ethics &
Philosophy,
Maths, Geography

How successful are Carmel's Religion, Ethics & Philosophy students?

Our students are high achievers and the department is proud of its results:

		No of Entries	A*-B	A*-C	Overall Pass Rate
2013	AS	89	35%	64%	91%
	A2	56	61%	88%	100%
2014	AS	107	57%	86%	100%
	A2	53	49%	74%	98%
2015	AS	104	55%	77%	98%
	A2	80	65%	90%	99%
2016	AS	85	42%	63%	97%
	A2	84	46%	79%	98%



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What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need a **grade 5** in **GCSE English Language** for you to be able to cope with the language demands of the course.

Meet the Tutors

Glenn Skelhorn
Head of Department

Hannah Moss
Subject Tutor

More Information

The exam board website is extremely helpful: www.eduqas.co.uk