

RELIGION ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY

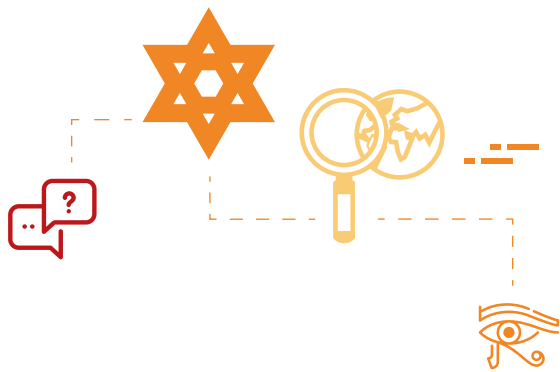
COURSE GUIDE 2018

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

GAUTAMA BUDDHA

RELIGION, ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY

Linear A Level
Exam Board OCR



OUR STUDENTS SAY...

Carmel has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

All of my subject teachers are well qualified and I can seek help from them at any time. I have particularly enjoyed studying the Religion, Ethics and Philosophy course (REP) as it covers a wide variety of interesting and challenging topics. I would strongly recommend REP to any students who have a keen interest not only in religion and ethics, but also have philosophical questions about the world in which we live in.

This course allows you to think more about and question the society that we live in as well as broadening your mind. The facilities we have in college are outstanding, for example, we have multiple work bases as well as a library, both of which have computers.

After college, I am taking a gap year before moving on to study at university.

Megan Swift

St Edmund Arrowsmith (Ashton)
Studying - Religion, Ethics & Philosophy,
English Language & Literature, Sociology



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!

Meet the Tutors

Glenn Skelhorn

Head of Department

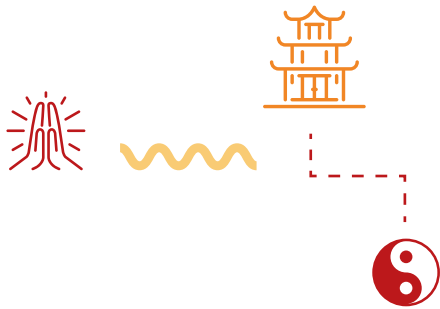
Hannah Moss

Subject Tutor



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

Freidrich Nietzsche



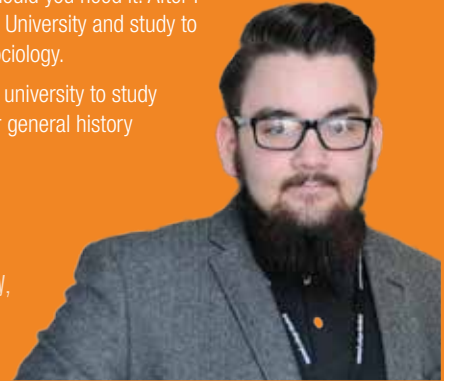
OUR STUDENTS SAY...

I enjoy the freedom and independence that you get when you come to Carmel College.

It is this independence that really sets Carmel apart from other colleges and allows you to flourish in your chosen subjects. Religion, Ethics & Philosophy is a subject for people who like challenging what they know and who wants to grow both intellectually and as a person. It has given me great skills in critical thinking as well as allowing me to study some of the greatest minds in human history. The thing that impressed me most about studying at Carmel was the support and expertise provided by tutors. Help and support is easily available should you need it. After I leave Carmel I hope to go to Liverpool University and study to become a lecturer in Philosophy or Sociology.

When I leave Carmel, I hope to attend university to study either some form of political history or general history qualification.

Josh Hibbert
Cowley International College
Studying - Religion, Ethics & Philosophy,
Politics, Sociology



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.

Student Voice

“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...

The thing I enjoy most about studying at Carmel is the sense of trust between the teachers and the students; if I had a problem, I could tell any of my tutors.

Out of my A Levels, Religion, Ethics and Philosophy is definitely my favourite. The subject has really challenged me and really pushed me to think more for myself. Everything we have done in the subject has been interesting. After Carmel, I am hoping to go to university and eventually become a primary school teacher. As soon as you start at Carmel, right away you feel welcomed as there is such a friendly atmosphere. I have loved every minute of my time here!

Megan-Victoria Barrow

De La Salle

Studying: Religion, Ethics and Philosophy, English Language & Literature, Sociology



Frequently Asked Questions

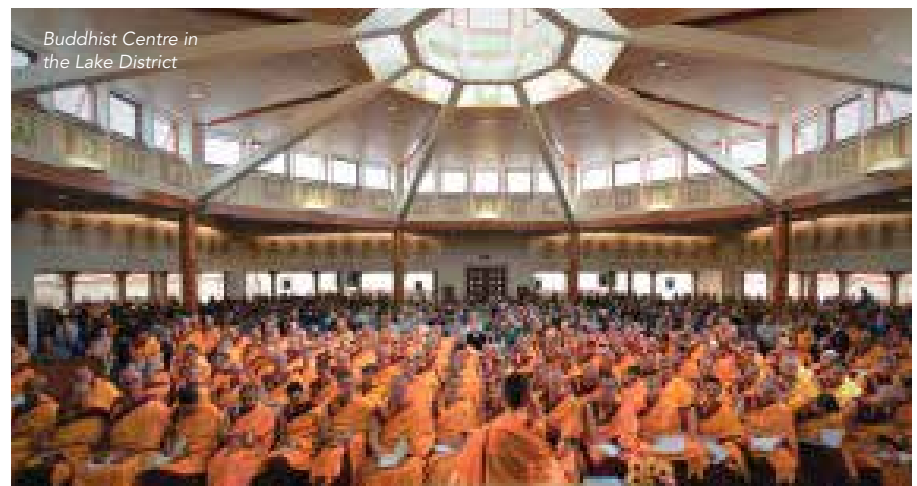
What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need a **grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies** (if studied) and **grade 5 in either GCSE English Language or English Literature**.

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
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%
2017	AS	-	-	-	-
	A2	55	51%	84%	95%



carmel
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More Information

The exam board website is extremely helpful: www.ocr.org.uk