



RMPS (Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies) (Advanced Higher)

What are the aims of this course?

This course aims to allow students to:

- extend and develop their knowledge and understanding of aspects of religion, morality and philosophy
- respond to certain religious, moral and philosophical questions through a process of enquiry, debate, analysis and evaluation, particularly in relation to the weighing up of detailed evidence, developing complex arguments and presenting balanced and coherent conclusions
- complete a dissertation on an issue which will enable them to demonstrate planning, organising and investigating skills, particularly in the use of primary and secondary sources, and evaluate the aims and objectives of their investigation
- continue to reflect upon their own life experiences and develop their personal beliefs and values

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Recommended entry:

Students will normally be expected to have attained one of the following:

- Higher RMPS at Grade A or B
- Higher English at Grade A or B
- Higher History, Geography or Modern Studies at Grade A or B

What content is included in this course?

There are three units of study:

Unit 1 – Philosophy of Religion

In this unit students will explore, in depth, the on going debate over the existence or non-existence of God and the consequences this has for our perception of the origin and purpose of the universe and our place within it.

Students will analyse and evaluate the arguments and counter arguments in relation to three areas of study.

- The Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God
- The Design Argument for the Existence of God
- Atheism

Unit 2 – Medical Ethics

There are three areas of study in this unit:

- The Beginning of Life
 - The treatment and rights of embryos
 - Abortion
- The Prolongation of Life
 - The procurement of organs
 - The allocation of organs
- The Ending of Life
 - Palliative care of terminal illness
 - Euthanasia

Unit 3 – Personal Research and Dissertation

Students will carry out independent research on an issue chosen from within the content of the Advanced Higher course. Students will develop the investigation skills of planning, organising, analysing, evaluating and presenting complex concepts and issues.

Students will submit a detailed proposal for a dissertation based on their personal research.

The dissertation will be based on the investigation undertaken in the personal research unit. The dissertation should be approximately 4, 000 words in length and will attract 40 out of a total 100 marks.

The dissertation is externally assessed by the SQA.

What skills will I develop?

Students will develop:

- A philosophical approach to study
- The skills of analysis and evaluation of complex concepts and issues
- The ability to present balanced, reasoned and structured responses in relation to religious moral and philosophical issues
- Critical thinking and essay writing skills
- A better understanding of their own personal beliefs and values as well as the beliefs and values of others.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

Students will experience a variety of learning and teaching approaches such as teacher led exposition, structured whole class discussion and debate, individual, paired and group work, interpretation of primary and secondary sources, written responses including critical essay writing and investigation.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment

Students will be assessed throughout the course via:

- Regular homework assignments
- A preliminary exam
- A dissertation
- An external exam

What are the homework requirements?

Students can expect regular homework assignments. Homework will be set on a weekly basis.

What are the possible progression routes?

Students may progress to:

- A degree or further study in the areas of Theology, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Arts or Social Sciences
- General entrance to university or college for most courses in the UK.
- Vocational training / employment

