

GETTING AHEAD



HAVANT

Start to develop skills that are relevant to your course before you join HSDC this September!

Religious Studies – A Level

Fascinating and enlightening, A Level Religious Studies can be an excellent subject choice. Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. The A Level syllabus combines the in-depth study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics with the study of a major world religion and the development of thought within it.

In the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics section, areas of study include the application of ethical theories to contemporary issues including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and embryonic research. The philosophical element looks at a variety of fascinating topics, including the nature of the mind, body and soul, arguments for and against the existence of God, and the problem of evil.

What sort of work is involved?

A Level Religious Studies is a highly engaging subject, and you can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay-writing.

What background do I need?

Whilst a GCSE in the subject is desirable, it isn't essential. Religious Studies is very accessible at A Level provided you have an understanding of the basics of major world religions, and strong writing skills. In this light, a strong grade in an essay-based GCSE, for example English, is a big plus. Alongside these skills, you need to have a keen interest in the subject, including a desire to broaden your knowledge and understanding of religion, philosophy and ethics, and to develop your skills in critical thinking and analysis.

If this sounds like you, A Level Religious Studies could prove to be a subject you will enjoy and do well in. It is a strong subject to have alongside Maths and Science subjects to demonstrate that you are a well-rounded person with an informed world view

We look forward to seeing you in September!

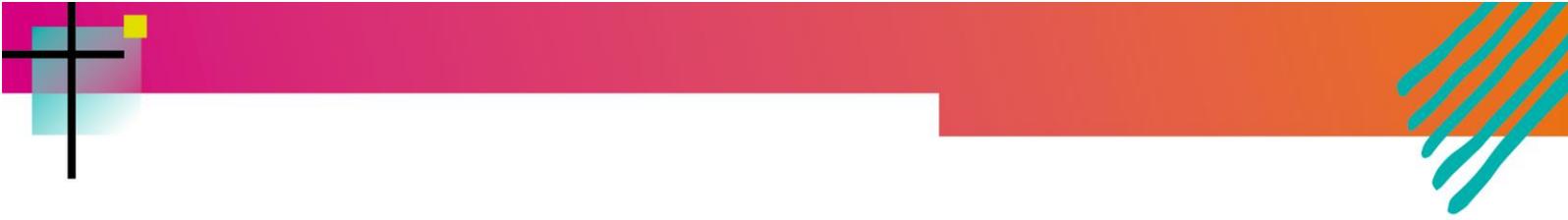
For further information about your college and being a student at HSDC, please visit hsdc.ac.uk/Havant

Activity 1. The Wheel of Samsara



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Research the Wheel of Samsara in Buddhism and explain each of the six realms of existence

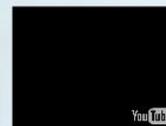
1. Hell Realm
2. Realm of the Hungry Ghosts
3. Realm of Animals
4. Realm of Humans
5. Realms of demigods (Ashura)
6. Realm of Gods (Deva)

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Activity 2 – Ethics of Thanos

Write down the following questions on giant white boards and leave space for answers.

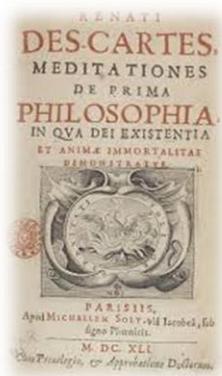


1. Who is Thanos? What kind of character is he?
2. What was his intention in infinity war?
3. What was the result of his action to snap his finger?
4. What is Malthusianism?
5. Were Thanos' actions good?
6. Is Thanos good?

Watch this video with the above questions and try and answer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eQP6JoxTKk>

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Read – You can read philosophy books to prepare you for your course you can also read articles such as these:

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/plato/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/aristotl/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/aquinas/>

Watch - Crash Course Philosophy

This series of videos introduces you to some of the topics we will cover over the two-year duration of the course



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

Did You Know?

A Level Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of University degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. Humanities, English, Psychology, PPE.

Religious Studies or a related subject at degree level can lead to a range of challenging and rewarding jobs, using either direct knowledge gained from the subject or from the skills gained. Possible jobs from a Religious Studies degree include: Lecturing, teaching, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker.

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