

# SUBJECT GUIDE: RPE

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## Entry Requirement

6 in at least one of GCSE English Literature or Language  
Desirable - a GCSE in one or more Humanities subject

## Specification

OCR A-Level Religious Studies (H573)

## Course Outline (modules, weighting, topics etc)

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion (33% of A Level, 2h exam)

This unit covers:

Ancient philosophical influences  
the nature of the soul, mind and body  
Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God  
The nature and impact of religious experience  
The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil  
Ideas about the nature of God  
Issues in religious language.

Component 2: Religion and Ethics (33% of A Level, 2h exam)

This unit covers:

Normative ethical theories  
The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance  
Ethical language and thought  
Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience  
Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Component 3: Developments in religious thought (33% 2h exam)

This unit covers:

Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world  
Sources of religious wisdom and authority  
Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition  
Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought  
Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

## Why study RPE at The Swan?

The study of RPE at The Swan prepares you for every possible pathway. This course is not simply academic; it deals with fundamental questions that affect our perception of reality and the way we live our lives.

RPE students will consider questions which have mystified the great thinkers throughout time such as: does God exist? How can we determine what is good and what is evil? Is there a connection between the mind, body and soul? And how does religion interact with a secular society?

You will be taught how to write rigorous and analytical essays drawing on a wide range of key philosophical ideas, ethical theories, and theological positions, developing your ability to reason, and deploy a range of material to demonstrate understanding and justifications with the support of a team of experienced RPE teachers.

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