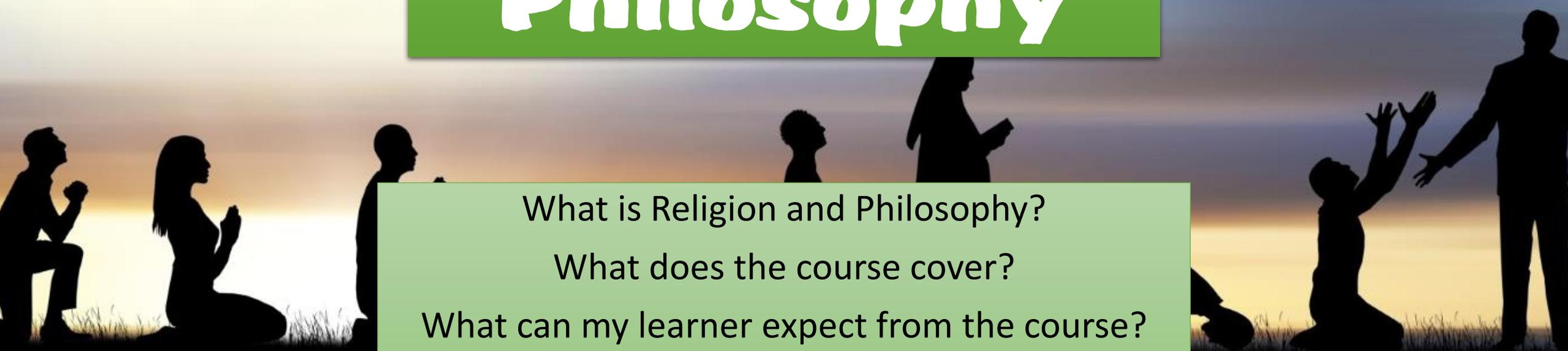




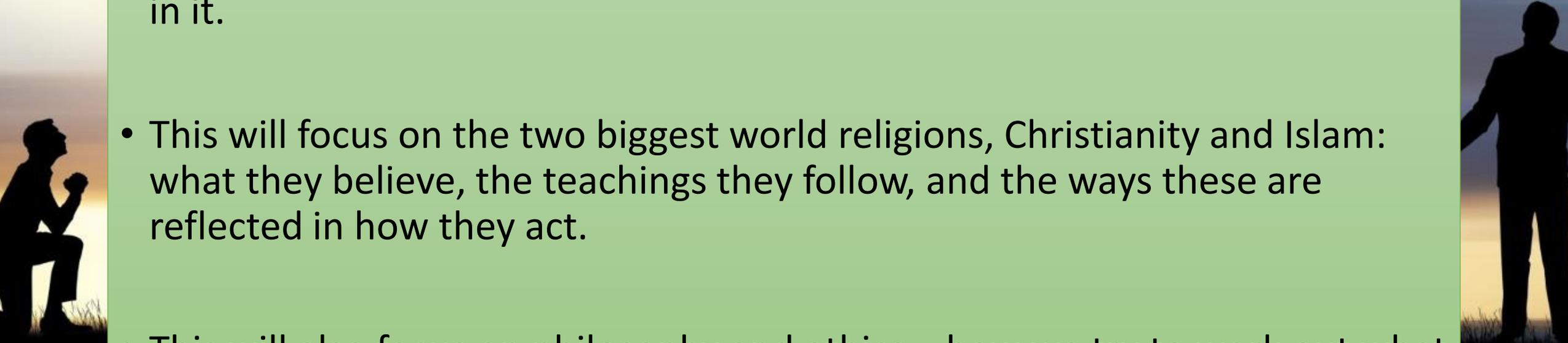
Choosing Religion and Philosophy



What is Religion and Philosophy?
What does the course cover?
What can my learner expect from the course?

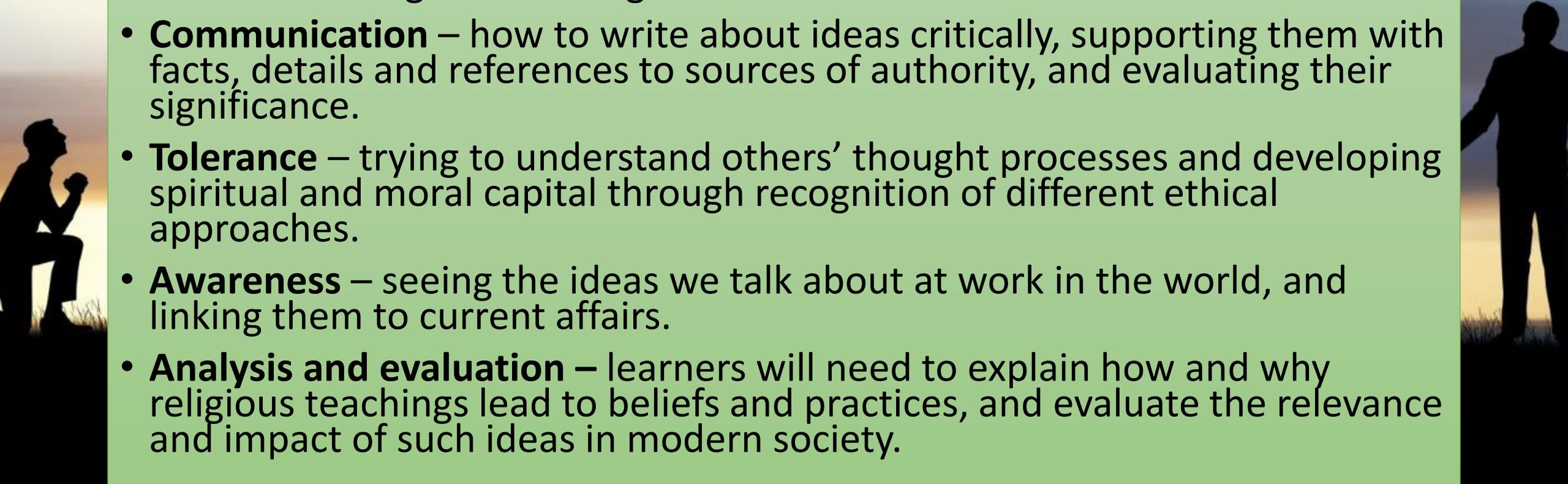


What is Religion and Philosophy?

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- This GCSE course looks at the ways in which people have, over the millennia, tried to understand the universe around us and humanity's part in it.
 - This will focus on the two biggest world religions, Christianity and Islam: what they believe, the teachings they follow, and the ways these are reflected in how they act.
 - This will also focus on philosophy and ethics – how we try to work out what the world means, and how we make choices about right and wrong.



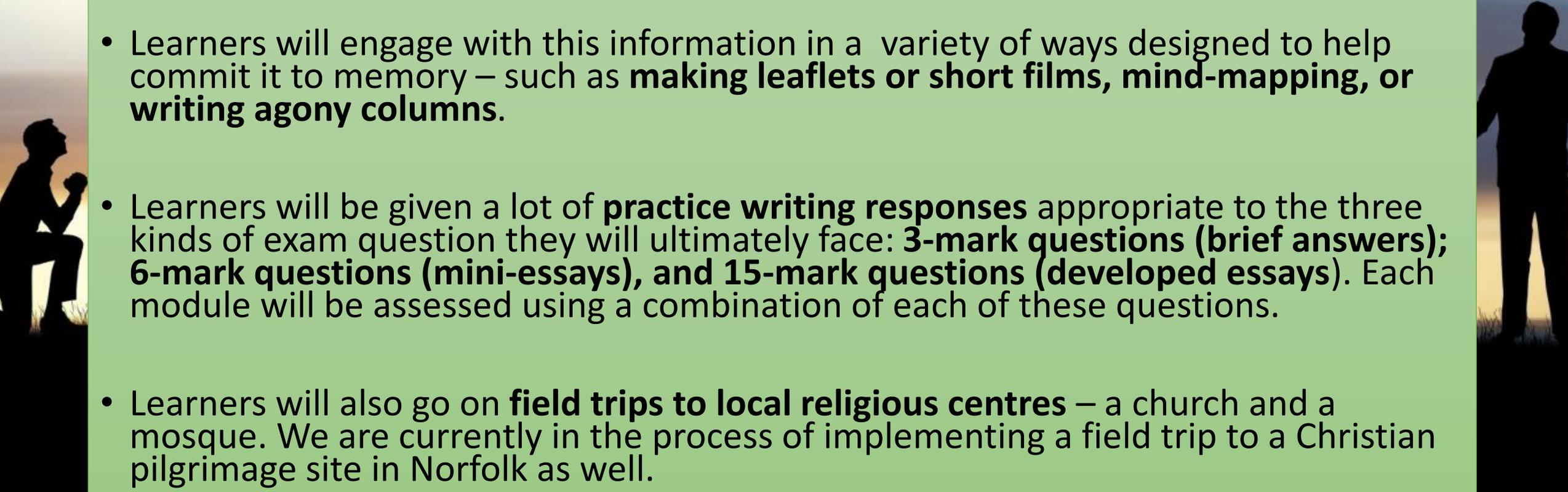
What skills will learners develop?

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- **Curiosity** – finding out about other cultures and the way others think and make decisions, building up cultural capital and understanding some of the forces for change influencing the world.
 - **Communication** – how to write about ideas critically, supporting them with facts, details and references to sources of authority, and evaluating their significance.
 - **Tolerance** – trying to understand others' thought processes and developing spiritual and moral capital through recognition of different ethical approaches.
 - **Awareness** – seeing the ideas we talk about at work in the world, and linking them to current affairs.
 - **Analysis and evaluation** – learners will need to explain how and why religious teachings lead to beliefs and practices, and evaluate the relevance and impact of such ideas in modern society.



What will the learners' experiences be?

Learners will have
4x75 minute sessions
per fortnight

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- This course includes a lot of **factual content**, so learners will be required to **read**, understand and **take notes** on significant amounts of information.
 - Learners will engage with this information in a variety of ways designed to help commit it to memory – such as **making leaflets or short films, mind-mapping, or writing agony columns**.
 - Learners will be given a lot of **practice writing responses** appropriate to the three kinds of exam question they will ultimately face: **3-mark questions (brief answers); 6-mark questions (mini-essays), and 15-mark questions (developed essays)**. Each module will be assessed using a combination of each of these questions.
 - Learners will also go on **field trips to local religious centres** – a church and a mosque. We are currently in the process of implementing a field trip to a Christian pilgrimage site in Norfolk as well.



What will the course cover?

Cohort 9

- The ethics of relationships and families (Christian viewpoints towards marriage, sexuality, equality and gender roles)
- Christian beliefs, teachings and practices
- Experiencing God – conversion, mysticism, miracles, charismatic worship; arguments for and against the existence of God

Cohort 10

- The nature of reality
- Christian views on peace and conflict
- Islamic beliefs, teachings and practices
- Dialogue within and between religious and non-religious groups

Cohort 11

- Medical ethics
- Preparation for November mocks
- Revision of all areas of the course
- Regular practice questions and papers

Course overview – OCR Religious Studies GCSE

Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity

1 hour exam

63 marks

Beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam

1 hour exam

63 marks

Philosophy and ethics from a Christian perspective

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious groups

2 hour exam

126 marks

Learners will face mock exams in content covered that year in Cohort 9 and Cohort 10; they will also face full mocks in November of C11 (all the papers, in full).

Who is the course suited to?

Those who are interested in debate and argument – much of the philosophical and ethical content is **subjective**, and requires learners to accept there is **no 'right answer'**; instead, they must learn to use **examples and logic to support their beliefs**, and **analyse the impact and significance** of ethical views. In the religious content, learners are required to compare the **differences between denominations**, so again they will need to be able to understand how groups have reached **different interpretations** and **evaluate** the impact of these.

Those who are interested in current affairs – there are regular opportunities to relate **religious, philosophical and ethical content** to **what is happening in the world** around us. This is very much a **'live' subject**.

Those who are interested in religion as a cultural force in the world – we look at how **religions shape their communities and societies**, how they **affect the lives of believers and non-believers**, and how they interact with each other.

Those who enjoy and excel at written communication – this GCSE is centred around **written exams**. Almost 50% of the total marks available are for **extended essays**, and a further 30% are for **mini-essays**.

Why choose Religion and Philosophy?

- It shows a good awareness of the world around us – this is valued when it comes to college applications. It also suggests an interest in the wider world, and tolerance for those from other backgrounds – good ‘soft skills’.
- It demonstrates an ability to learn large amounts of content, and write about them thoughtfully and capably. Although a ‘tier 3’ subject in terms of the EBacc, it is recognised as requiring a lot of writing, and being academically rigorous as a result. This is a representative example of course requirements from Colchester Sixth Form:

Grade 4 (or C)	GCSE History (if taken) AND
Grade 4	GCSE English or English Literature AND
Grade 5 (or B)	In at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Literature, History, <u>Religious Studies</u> or Sociology)

Where can Religion and Philosophy lead?



- Religion and Philosophy develops the skills of literacy, oracy, argumentation, and research; it requires a good eye for detail and the skilful application of logic, and promotes open-mindedness and empathy.
- Possible occupations that use these skill sets include lawyers (both barristers and solicitors), doctors, psychologists, police detectives, forensic investigators, public services, civil services, management, teaching, social work, youth work, childcare, archaeology, fine art, museum work, conservation /natural history, and architecture.



Any questions?

If you would prefer to ask a question by email, or would appreciate a written or more detailed response, please feel free to email me at

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