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SPRINGBOARD



A-Level EPRS (Religious Studies)

OUR COURSE DETAILS

The EPRS (Religious Studies) A-Level Course is a two-year programme of investigation into philosophy, ethics, and Christian theology. It is an ideal way for diligent young minds to develop critical, analytical, and evaluative skills, as well as social, cultural, and emotional intelligence, all of which will be of great value in a wide array of workplaces and higher education courses.

The chosen specification for EPRS is the OCR exam board, on the basis of it being accessible, yet challenging; well-balanced between content knowledge and written skill; and an excellent preparation for university, owing to it placing high priority on the ability to debate and reason.

The first year of the course lays the foundations for the second year, in which all topics covered in the first year (across philosophy, ethics, and Christian thought) provide the context for the more challenging material in the second year. Philosophy and ethics are taught concurrently with Christian thought, providing a balance between religious and secular thought throughout the course.



EMPLOYABILITY

There are many careers available which use EPRS, whether philosophical (law and politics to name but two), ethical (research ethics is a key area of employment), or theological (<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/search>)

Some ideas can be found here: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>



PREPARING FOR STUDY

It is essential that students on the EPRS course have excellent essay writing skills. As such, we expect all candidates to be willing and able to:

- Demonstrate a genuine enthusiasm for the course
- Write 2-3 sides in 40 minutes
- Provide strengths and weaknesses when considering an argument
- Evaluate ideas (i.e. how strong or weak they are)

Read both a chapter of a book, and at least one article, every week

We *strongly* recommend buying the three revision guides for the course – My Revision Notes, OCR A-Level Religious Studies

UNIVERSITY COURSES

Many institutions offer philosophy degrees, the league tables for which can be found below:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings/philosophy>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2019/jun/07/university-guide-2020-league-table-for-philosophy>

Theology degrees are a popular option from EPRS, and links to the league tables are provided below:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings/theology-and-religious-studies>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2019/jun/07/university-guide-2020-league-table-for-religious-studies-and-theology>



OUR TOP READS

- *The Problems Of Philosophy* – Bertrand Russell
- *Evil & The God Of Love* – John Hick
- *The God Delusion* – Richard Dawkins
- *Zen & The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance* – Robert M. Pirsig
- *The Possibility Of An Island* – Michel Houellebecq

FILMS

- Batman: The Dark Knight (2008)
- Hot Fuzz (2007)
- Gattaca (1997)
- The Life of Brian (1979)

LINKS TO THE SPECIFICATIONS

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

PEOPLE TO RESEARCH

Plato & Aristotle: The key thinkers from whom all Western philosophy is derived. Pay special attention to Plato's depiction of Socrates

Thomas Aquinas: One of the most influential Christian thinkers; important for the entire course

Immanuel Kant: One for those who like logic and rational thinking, even in their ethics

St. Augustine: A thinker who has arguably changed the path of Christianity more than any other

USEFUL ONLINE LINKS

- Crash Course Philosophy: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>
- Thinking Allowed (BBC Radio 4): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>
- Beyond Belief (BBC Radio 4): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s6p6>
- The School Of Life: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC71cJl8PUf5Z3zKxnZvTBog>
- Philosophy According To Eddie: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>