## **Edexcel A-Level Religious Studies**



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Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion	Paper 2: Religion and Ethics	Paper 3: New Testament Studies
The content for this paper helps students to explore some of the main contemporary philosophical issues and questions about religion, such as belief in God or the conviction that life has both meaning and purpose. It provides a relevant and challenging context for exploring the particular beliefs, values and practices that characterise religious communities. In turn, the paper provides a sound basis for understanding and reflecting on the contemporary influence of religion, the views of those who do not share a religious belief and the impact of these factors on people's lives.	The content for this paper is focused on exploring both common ground and controversy in dealing with issues that arise in the areas of morality and religion in the context of the modern world. The paper will help students to study some of the underlying ideas and concepts of these issues, as well as questions and issues about how ethical and religious ideas and solutions may be applied in practice in contemporary social, political and personal situations. The study addresses an important part of the key underlying concerns that students raise about the world in which they are growing up, and about their own views, opinions and commitments.	The content for this paper comprises a study of extended textual material. This study is set in a historical context so that students can become familiar with some of the more technical language and terminology used in the texts. It is also set in the context of the specific study of the Gospel texts, and involves a detailed understanding of the nature of selected passages of text as well as the scholarly and critical methods used today to study the text of the New Testament. There is a focus on understanding the Gospel teaching about how the first Christians understood the New Testament text and how they expressed and interpreted the relationship between Jesus and God.
Content overview: Philosophical issues and questions The nature and influence of religious experience Problems of evil and suffering Philosophical language Works of scholars Influences of developments in religious belief.	Content overview: Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics A study of three ethical theories Application of ethical theories to issues of importance Ethical language Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.	Content overview: Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship Ways of interpreting the scripture Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.
Written examination: 2 hours 33. 33% of the qualification 80 marks	Written examination: 2 hours 33. 33% of the qualification 80 marks	Written examination: 2 hours 33. 33% of the qualification 80 marks