

Thinking about choosing to study Religious Studies at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Religious Studies in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Religious Studies may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

* RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (different religious beliefs and philosophies, morals and ethics, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Religious Studies is often combined with other arts and humanities such as History, English, or modern and classical languages. Complementary subjects include Classical Civilisation, Latin, Greek, History of Art, Sociology and Psychology. Some syllabuses offer the option to do a project linked to the content of another Advanced level subject which can either be contrasting or complementary. Religious Studies provides a contrast to subjects such as Economics, Business Studies, Mathematics and all of the sciences.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<i>Religious Studies Skills</i>		⊗ Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:
<i>Research skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> reading and interpreting text written in difficult and unfamiliar language <input type="checkbox"/> analysing written information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed <input type="checkbox"/> summarising that information either in writing or verbally	<input type="checkbox"/> reading and analysing religious, cultural historical and philosophical literature <input type="checkbox"/> considering different viewpoints on controversial issues <input type="checkbox"/> studying objective historical evidence (e.g. archaeology)
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters	<input type="checkbox"/> writing notes, essays and projects using factual material and making use of religious terminology <input type="checkbox"/> presenting different arguments for example, on the morality of embryo research
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions <input type="checkbox"/> listening and responding to others <input type="checkbox"/> discussing and debating controversial issues <input type="checkbox"/> expressing an understanding of and empathy for different viewpoints	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing the perspectives of different religions in relation to social problems and issues
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> estimating and calculating timescales, percentages and proportions	<input type="checkbox"/> investigating religious and historical events using incomplete or partial evidence
<i>Skills of critical analysis:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> developing hypotheses and theories to make sense of developments in religious movements <input type="checkbox"/> selecting suitable evidence to test hypotheses and investigate religious beliefs, customs and movements <input type="checkbox"/> developing an understanding of contemporary responses to religious beliefs in different times and places	<input type="checkbox"/> evaluating the approaches of western and/or eastern philosophy and religions to debates on, for example, problems of evil and suffering, miracles <input type="checkbox"/> examining the background and emergence of different religious beliefs and philosophies

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- recognising and understanding different viewpoints
- listening to others and conveying information in simple terms
- understanding and helping to solve the personal problems of others

- producing letters, memos, reports etc..
- giving advice and information to people of different social and ethnic backgrounds

- giving presentations, persuading others about a particular argument
- co-operating with others and working as part of a team

- using a methodical approach to tackling problems
- dealing with budgets or funds

- building relationships with people of different backgrounds and beliefs
- preparing and delivering religious sermons and organising and participating in religious events and festivities

religious studies

⊗ other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Religious Studies at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

Religious Studies

CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

Along with other Humanities subjects, Religious Studies has wide acceptance for both entry into employment and university. Careers related to Religious Studies are varied and include more than work in the church, social and welfare work and teaching. The skills gained from the study of Religious studies are useful in a wide range of occupations and contexts.

Listed below are a selection of occupations which make use of the skills and knowledge developed through the study of Religious Studies. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
V	Religious Leader
V	Social Worker and Counselling Service Careers
V	Youth and Community Work
J	Healthcare
JH	Nursing
AB	Civil Service
AC	Local Government Work
AA	Human Resources Manager
L	Legal and Political Services
UI	Prison Service
O	Marketing and Advertising
OG	Public Relations
PB	Journalism and Writing

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.

- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Religious Studies. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Religious Studies students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think?
Are you interested in studying Religious Studies further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of * doing a degree?

Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. Although an Advanced level qualification in Religious Studies is very useful for entry to degree programmes, many students have been successful at this discipline without previous Advanced level study.

Degree courses in Religious Studies/Theology

A wide range of courses exist in universities and colleges. These include single honours degrees as well as a wide range of combined degrees where other subjects can be studied alongside Religion or Theology. Religious Studies degrees tend to be quite broad involving the study of world religions with less emphasis on the study of Christianity as a single doctrine. Theology, on the other hand, usually (though not always) involves an in depth study of a living tradition. At universities in the UK this is normally Christianity. A number of universities and colleges allow comparative study of the philosophy and sociology of religions of all doctrines.

Religious Studies related degree courses

- Biblical Studies
- History of Religions
- Theology
- Study of Religions
- Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
- Anthropology of Religion
- Religious, Social and Cultural Studies
- Divinity
- Hebrew Studies
- Theology & Urban Ministry
- Arabic Religious Studies
- Christianity & Community Studies
- Comparative Religion
- Christian Ministry
- Applied Community Studies/Religious Studies
- New Testament Studies
- Anthropology
- Byzantine Studies
- Church History
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Community Development
- History of Ideas
- Jewish Studies
- Medieval Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Sanskrit
- Youth and Community Work

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at www.ucas.com

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Religious Studies may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Religious Studies FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

From recent surveys the following trends have been identified for Religious Studies and Theology graduates (based on a survey of graduates' six months after completion of the degree):

- around 37% of religious studies graduates opted for further postgraduate study. Of these some chose specialist theology courses, others took conversion courses for things such as law or computing, and 21% went into teaching training
- around 13% went into commercial, industrial and public sector management
- around 11% went into clerical, administrative and secretarial jobs
- around 8% found work in the health and childcare sectors
- many religious studies graduates find work in areas such as social services, education authorities, FE/HE institutions, religious organisations and voluntary/charitable organisations

...jobs

These are some of the jobs that Religious Studies graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- ◆ Chartered Accountancy
- ◆ Management Trainee
- ◆ Retail Management
- ◆ Copy Editor
- ◆ Police Constable
- ◆ Work with a Youth Organisation
- ◆ Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- ◆ Training for the Ministry
- ◆ Trainee Teacher



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Degree Course Guide - Classics, Theology and Religious Studies
published by Trotman
- > Questions and Answers - Social Work
published by Trotman
- > The International Directory of Voluntary Work
published by Vacation Work
- > Kibbutz Volunteer
published by Vacation Work
- > Working in the Voluntary Sector
published by How to Books

- ▷ Church Mission Society
Watlington Road
Oxford OX4 6BZ
0843 6201799
01865 787400
- ▷ General Social Care Council (Social Work Careers and Training)
Information Office
Goldings House
2 Hays lane
London SE1 2HB
020 7397 5100
www.gsccl.org.uk
- ▷ National Health Service Careers
Tel 0870 60 60 665
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
- ▷ Quaker International Social Projects
Friends House
173 - 177 Euston Road
London NW1 2BJ
020 7663 1000
Email: enquiries@quaker.org.uk
www.quaker.org.uk
- ▷ Refugee Council
Learning and Integration Unit
3 Bondway
London SW8 1SJ
020 7840 4488
Email: training@refugeecouncil.org.uk
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
- ▷ Teacher Training Agency
0845 6000 991
www.tda.gov.uk/Recruit

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
BACP House
15 St John's Business Park
Lutterworth LE17 4HB
0870 4435252
Email: bacp@bacp.co.uk
www.bacp.co.uk