



GCSE — **Philosophy, Religion & Ethics**



Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)

SEAFORD COLLEGE

HEAD OF PRE – ADAM C. STARK

What is PRE?

In **P**hilosophy, **R**eligion and **E**thics
we explore the intersections
between **religion, culture and life.**



Why should you choose it?



- The GCSE is vastly different to PRE in Year 9 and in prep school.
- Learning is largely discussion based
- Personal perspectives are welcome— even criticisms against religion (but not irrational r.....o,...
- We create an inclusive environment based on mutual respect for all.
- Broad and themes-based.
- Focus on four global themes and just two religions.
- Great resources and exam support – we have the **PRE GCSE Navigator**.

- You will **not** be taught how to be religious.
- You do **not** have to be religious.
- You will **not** be encouraged to be religious – that's your decision to make!

- In PRE, we embrace pluralism – the view that all spiritualities are valid.

Why should you choose it?

- **Unparalleled standards of teaching, resources and support.**
 - Constantly being reviewed and updated in response to real-world events and students' needs.
- **Discussion-based, focused lessons.**
 - Our cohort is always well drilled and enthusiastic to listen, learn and contribute.
- **Students are provided access to our bespoke PRE GCSE Navigator.**
 - Admin and revision is made *much* easier.
- **Value added: 1.5 grades higher than expected in 2024/25.**
 - Trust the process and success will follow.



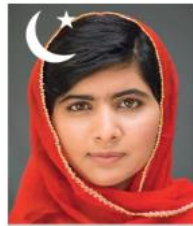
Why should you choose it?

Antagonism is becoming the *modus operandi*, the typical way to argue in the era of the internet. And oversimplification, or 'the death of nuance', is plaguing popular knowledge. **PRE** attempts to address this by fostering scepticism, tolerance, compassion, reason and, above all, an appreciation for the 'grey areas'.



Some of our most popular topics:

- Just War Theory and Terrorism
- Euthanasia (Assisted Dying)
- Racism and Sexism
- Peaceful and Violent Protesting
- Original Sin and Salvation
- Human Rights



Malala Yousafzai
feminist activist who peacefully protested against the sexist prohibition on the education of girls in Pakistan. Subsequently, there was an assassination attempt on her.



Rosa Parks
peacefully protested against racism in the USA during the Montgomery Bus Boycotts by refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

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Course content

COMPONENT 1: Religious Studies

- Islamic beliefs and practices
 - The 6 Articles of Faith; the 5 Roots; The 5 Pillars of Islam; the 10 Obligatory Acts; festivals; and more.
- Christian beliefs and practices
 - The nature of God; the afterlife; Sin, Adam & Eve; Salvation; Jesus' role and teachings; festivals; and more.



Course content



COMPONENT 2: Thematic Studies

- Theme B: Religion & Life
 - Euthanasia; abortions; the value of life; evolution and creation; God and the big bang; animal experimentation; stewardship and dominion; the use and abuse of the environment; and Christian & Muslim views on all these issues/topics.
- Theme D: Religion, Peace & Conflict
 - Just war theory; pacifism; conscientiously objecting; activism; peaceful and violent protesting; terrorism; responses to conflict; religious responses to conflict; and Christian & Muslim views on all of these issues/topics.
- Theme E: Religion, Crime & Punishment
 - Reasons form crime; responses to crime; reconciliation; reformation; retribution; deterrence; and Christian & Muslim views on all these issues/topics.
- Theme F: Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice
 - Human Rights; moral responsibilities; Segregation and Apartheid; racism; sexism; homophobia; heteronormativity; ablism; inclusivity; equity vs equality; and Christian & Muslim views on all these issues/topics.

Assessment

Exam 1

- Religious beliefs and practices (1 hour 45 mins)
 - Christian beliefs
 - Christian practices
 - Islamic beliefs
 - Islamic practices

Exam 2

- Thematic Studies (1 hour 45 mins)
 - Theme B: Religion & Life
 - Theme D: Religion, Peace & Conflict
 - Theme E: Religion, Crime & Punishment
 - Theme F: Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice



Assessment

50% of all marks are attached to 12-mark essay questions.

To prepare students for these, two lessons in every half term are dedicated *writing workshops*.

- *Exemplary answers*
- *Writing frames*
- *Mark scheme reviews*



Exemplary 12-mark Answers

Click below

*Remember, the views expressed in these answers are those of former students. Whilst these examples may help you to understand what a good answer looks like, when writing your answers you should develop your own arguments.

<u>Content</u>	
"The most important festival for Christians is Christmas" [12 marks]	1
"The stories of the incarnation prove Jesus was the Son of God" [12 marks]	2
"Religious believers should never have an abortion" [12 marks]	3
"The right to die should always take priority over the sanctity of life" [12 marks]	3
"Religious believers should never fight in a war." [12 marks]	4
"Countries should not keep weapons of mass destruction." [12 marks]	4
"It's always wrong for religious believers to protest violently." [12 marks]	5
"Religious believers should fight racism more than other prejudices" [12 marks]	7
"It is always right to give charity to the poor." [12 marks]	7
"Religious teachings can help to stop discrimination against homosexuals" [12 marks]	8

Expectations of students

- Interested in global events and issues.
- Willing to participate in meaningful whole-class discussions.
- Philosophically minded—being open to understanding the perspectives of others and to question your own.
- We strive for inclusivity and an appreciation of pluralism and pluriversality (that there are a wide range of valid and valuable ways of seeing, living and being in this world; if religion and ethics is absolute, then no one person, organisation or community is the arbiter of it).



Future pathways



- A-Level: **Philosophy, Religion & Ethics**; Sociology; Politics; History.
- Out-of-the-box thinking and analytical skills. Lots of **transferable skills**.
- Global learning for future **global citizens**.
- University: Humanities—specifically Philosophy or PPE.
- Can lead to or support career pursuits in law, politics, social work, academics etc.

"Faith without action is dead" (James 2:20)

- Caring for those in need, whether by volunteering, giving to charity or being a 'good Samaritan', is central to both Christianity and Islam—our focus religions.
- Putting theory into practice is at the heart of these religions.
- Hence, our non-examined PRE classes (Years 9, 10 and 12) facilitate the packing and shipping of food parcels for the **Chichester District Foodbanks**.

Any questions?

If you have any questions regarding the content of the course please contact me using astark@seaford.org