



CHELTENHAM
LADIES'
COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026 A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Expectations for SFC Religious Studies A level entrance

Candidates are not expected to have any specific area of subject knowledge for Religious Studies, as students will have covered different material in their previous education. The paper consists of open-ended essay questions, with much choice offered, allowing plenty of scope for the candidates to draw on their particular learning. Most important is an awareness of the major issues in Religious Studies and answers should go beyond mere speculation and opinion. An understanding and awareness of global issues involving religion is also beneficial. Candidates will be expected to use their own ideas, coupled with any knowledge they may have, to construct an argument. The most successful candidates will show an appreciation for different approaches to a religious question, and will be able to show the strengths and weaknesses of key ideas.

Some questions will be more obviously focussed on Christianity. However, knowledge of Christianity will not be assumed and candidates may answer questions from the viewpoint of any major world religion with which they may be more familiar.

Topic areas most frequently covered (this list is not exhaustive):

- Philosophy of Religion e.g. the existence of God
- Applied ethics of current debate e.g. euthanasia
- The Bible e.g. relevance and inspiration
- Religion in the modern world e.g. conflict

We will be looking for

- A reasonable range of knowledge – but it is appreciated that previous learning will vary greatly between candidates.
- The ability to analyse and consider religious ideas in depth
- Reasoning ability
- The ability to construct a formal essay
- Understanding of how to construct an argument and draw conclusions based on evidence
- Reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of ideas
- Original thinking