

# Preparing for A-Level Religious Studies

Examining Body: Eduqas.

The components studied are:

- Paper 1: The Study of Religion (Option D: Buddhism);
- Paper 2: The Philosophy of Religion;
- Paper 3: Religion and Ethics.

The best preparation any potential student of A-Level Religious Studies could do is wide-ranging and detailed reading or research around the subject. You may want to consider purchasing and exploring a few of the following texts.

You can begin by learning the basics with the following texts:

*For Buddhism...*

Teach Yourself: Buddhism.  
Erricker, C. Teach Yourself. 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0340867464.

*For the Philosophy of Religion...*

Understand the Philosophy of Religion.  
Thompson, M. Teach Yourself. 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1444105001.

*For Religion and Ethics...*

Understand Ethics.  
Thompson, M. Teach Yourself. 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0071747615.

Or, push yourself with the books below:

*For Buddhism...*

Siddhartha.  
Hesse, H. Picador. 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0330354851.

*For the Philosophy of Religion...*

The Brothers Karamazov.  
Dostoyevsky, F. Penguin Classics. 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0140449242.

*For Religion and Ethics...*

The Year of Living Biblically.  
Jacobs, A. Arrow. 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0099509790.

In addition to books there are a number of very useful web-based resources. We would particularly recommend:

*For Buddhism...*

The Buddhist Studies section of the Buddhnet website.

*For the Philosophy of Religion...*

The School of Life or Crash Course philosophy YouTube channels.

*For Religion and Ethics...*

Michael Sandel's Justice series on the Harvard University YouTube channel.

There are a variety of movies and television programmes worth watching. There is a large number of documentaries relating to all three components. There is also a great selection of drama and entertainment films and shows that can assist you into getting to grips with the specification content. Get some popcorn and binge watch them.

Some of our favourites include:

*For Buddhism...*

Kundun. 1998. Touchstone Pictures.

My Name Is Earl. 2005. NBC.

*For the Philosophy of Religion...*

Bruce Almighty. 2003. Universal Pictures.

The Story of God. 2016. National Geographic Channel.

*For Religion and Ethics...*

Pay It Forward. 2000. Warner Brothers Pictures.

The Good Place. 2016. NBC.

Finally, engage with the specification and consider what you feel about the main issues we will be studying: what do you believe and why?