

RELIGION & *Life*



GCSE Religious Studies Workshop

With Dr Peter Vardy

Bespoke Event

"Peter was his usual inspiring self and was able to stretch the brighter students in a way that had a number of them toying with the idea of taking up Philosophy and Ethics in the sixth form. It was a great way for the Salesian Schools in the South to come together and spend quality time with each other in a useful way,"

Fr Andrew Ebrahim SDB, St John Bosco College



Dr. Peter Vardy was Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London (1999-2011); he is internationally well-known as a leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and Values Education. Peter's many books – including the best-selling “Puzzle of” series for HarperCollins – demonstrate his ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity, accuracy and humour. For more than three decades schools and colleges have looked to Peter to provide outstanding conferences, resources and CPD / INSET, both to support their work in RS and Philosophy and more broadly.

Did you know? Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate for his work in promoting Religious Studies in schools by the University of Chichester in 2021.



“Religion and Life” is an intensive one-day workshop for students of GCSE Religious Studies, that has been designed to be run as a face-to-face bespoke event in your school. Combining pacy, engaging lectures with plenty of activities, discussions and debates, “Religion and Life” will bring content related to all four English GCSE specifications to life and help students to appreciate their significance.

Please note that this is NOT a revision or exam coaching event; no prior-knowledge will be assumed and the aim will be to enrich and extend students' learning in Religious Studies. Sessions are suitable for Year 10 or Year 11 students - or a mixture of both - and the event works well at any point during the academic year. Some schools have invited the most able Year 9 students to similar events in the past to give them a “taster” of the GCSE and support recruitment.

Sessions include:

1. How do Christians make moral decisions?

This introductory session introduces your GCSE students to Christian Ethics and explores the reasons why there is such diversity between denominations - and individual Christians - when responding to “hot button” issues. Particular attention will be given to how Christians do - and do not - use the Bible to guide their decision-making and the session will end with an activity designed to help students express their appreciation of diversity within Christianity and how Christians use the Bible on paper.

2. The Environment

The second session will explore Religious teaching related to the environment and will confront the tough question: are religions partly to blame for climate change and/or the failure to tackle it? This session will conclude with a group discussion.

3. Animals

The third session will explore religious teaching about the treatment of animals, including both eating animals and testing on them. This session will conclude with a written activity designed to support students in writing effective 12/15 markers.

4. Euthanasia

The final session of the day will explore the difficult issue of Euthanasia. Religious teachings about the sanctity of human life as well as quality of life arguments will be outlined and evaluated and the session will conclude with a formal debate on the motion: “this house believes that assisted dying should be legalised in the UK!”

Arranging a Bespoke Event with Candle Conferences couldn't be simpler - just send us an e-mail on info@candleconferences.com and our administrator - a highly experienced RS teacher herself - will get back to you to discuss possible dates and then answer any questions you may have.

To Book

“Religion and Life” costs £899 for unlimited numbers of students within one school or college.

Alternatively and subject to your own risk-assessments and policies, we can run the event for a group of local schools for £1299.

With Candle, there are NO hidden extras for VAT or travel (within the mainland UK)

With Candle you get:

- Up-to-date scholarly content made engaging and tailored to the real needs of GCSE students.
- Sessions and resources designed by practicing teachers with a record of engaging students of all abilities.

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