

The Pros and Cons of Studying Religion

Religion and religious debate fills our everyday lives. It is impossible to open a newspaper or turn on the television without being faced with a religious, moral or ethical issue under discussion, such as war or euthanasia. Even if you are not a religious person, it is impossible to ignore religion. This therefore provides the first argument for studying religion; the study of this subject will allow you to be better informed about the world and current affairs. Studying religion allows you to debate and question an endless array of topics that will lead you to form educated opinions and have a greater knowledge of the world around you and the individuals that you will interact with.

The next reason for studying religion comes from the skills that you will acquire and develop through your study. These include, good essay writing, research skills and importantly the art of critical and philosophical thinking. Critical and reasoned thinking is a much sought after skill in the world of work and careers that welcome such skills include:

- Law;
- Business;
- Teaching;
- Medicine;
- Law Enforcement;
- Government

There are of course reasons not to study religion. The first reason is that religion is not a definite science, and for those who like to find an absolute and correct answer to a question, this cannot be achieved within this subject matter. Religion is ultimately based on individual beliefs and opinions and study of the subject allows you to debate these opinions, but you will never find a correct and unquestionable answer.

Secondly, religion is a predominantly theory based subject, it requires a great deal of research and reading, therefore if your preference is for a more practical, 'hands-on' method of study, then religion may not be for you.

Studying religion can be a very fulfilling route to go down, you will definitely expand your knowledge of a wide range of subjects and you will form opinions based on the in depth research that you will undertake. However, the style of study required when looking into religion is not suited to all, and those students who thrive on definite facts and figures may find the study of religion is not specific enough to fulfil them. Ultimately the final decision is yours, but the study of religion is certainly not just for religious people or for those who want a career in religion, it is a vast subject that will challenge you on many levels.

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