



## HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE) STUDIES OF RELIGION

Religion has been and is an integral part of human existence and a component of every culture. An appreciation of society is enhanced by an understanding of religion, its influence on human behavior and interaction within cultures and across time.

At Masada we offer Studies of Religion as a 2 Unit Preliminary course in Year 11 and a 2 Unit HSC course in Year 12.

### Our Mission

Students who study Studies of Religion at Masada develop knowledge and skills that enable them to:

- Describe and explain the characteristics of religion and belief systems, using appropriate terminology
- Identify and analyse the influence of religion on individuals and society, both locally and globally
- Examine the expression of religion and indigenous belief systems in Australia throughout history
- Evaluate how religious beliefs are expressed in the daily lives of adherents
- Investigate how significant people or schools of thought have impacted on the development and expression of religions
- Appreciate how religions offer their adherents ethical guidance on an array of contemporary issues
- Conduct effective research about religion and synthesise the findings from the research

Masada students love to debate contentious issues and our small class sizes in Studies of Religion give all students a chance to explore some of the big questions about the benefits and pitfalls of religion and its effect on individuals and society at large.

### Our Results

- In **2016**, 63% of students achieved Band 5 compared with a state average of 49%
- In **2015**, 70% of students achieved a Band 5 compared with a State average of 34%

### Extra-Curricular Activities and Special Events

Our students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities outside the classroom including:

- Visits to places of worship such as a Mosque, a Baha'i Temple and Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches
- Youth Encounters Interfaith Days, designed to allow Studies of Religion students the opportunity to meet with students of other faiths and discuss with them their growing appreciation of different religions
- Email exchange networks with Studies of Religion students from local schools wishing to share information about their respective religions and learn more about Judaism.

The various programs offered by this faculty will introduce students to significant current issues within the classroom which stimulates rigorous debate and creates opportunities for extension study.

### Studies of Religion answers questions such as:

- Is there a God?
- What is the purpose of life?
- Do Atheists believe in **anything** at all?
- Do Muslims pray to Muhammad or Allah?
- Does Judaism really believe in **the concept of** life after death?
- **Are** there any real differences between Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Christians?

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