

GCSE Religious Studies

Introduction

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

GCSE Religious Studies

- Develops knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs within contemporary society.
- Develops an ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured arguments.
- Provides opportunities for students to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.
- Helps prepare pupils to become responsible citizens by raising issues of local, national and global concern and placing them in spiritual and moral contexts.
- Develops students as reflective and responsible citizens in a plural society and global community, with a strong awareness of religious and ethical diversity.
- Provides a forum for young people to voice their questions about identity and meaning, contributing to their personal development.
- Helps young people to understand more about themselves and others, and how to communicate. They are encouraged to develop their ideas and express them appropriately.
- Helps to create confident individuals by promoting self-awareness and self-esteem as pupils articulate questions and explore diversity.

Subject Content

Students complete the AQA Religious Studies A specification. This includes two papers. The first paper studies the main religious belief in the UK (Christianity), alongside the chosen religion of Islam.

The paper includes the study of the following topics:

Christian Beliefs and Teachings:

- The nature of God
- The Holy Trinity
- Creation of the world
- The life of Jesus – Incarnation, Crucifixion, Salvation, Resurrection and Ascension.

- Judgement and the Afterlife.

Christian Practices:

- Prayer and Worship
- Sacraments – Baptism and Eucharist
- Pilgrimage and Festivals
- The role of the church in the local and worldwide community

Islamic Beliefs and Teachings:

- Key Beliefs
- Nature of Allah
- Angels
- Predestination
- Authority

Islamic Practices:

- Five Pillars of Islam
- Jihad
- Mosque
- Duties and festivals

Paper 2 - Thematic Studies:

- Theme A: Relationships and Families
- Theme B: Religion and Life
- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Theme E: Crime and Punishment

How will this be assessed?

Students will sit two separate exam papers, which must be completed within 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The first paper will assess religious beliefs and practices from Christianity and Islam. Students are advised to spend 50 minutes on each religion.

The second paper will assess student knowledge on the four themes studied. Students are advised to spend 25 minutes on each theme.

Both papers are equally worth 50% of the GCSE.

Post-16 opportunities

The majority of universities and jobs accept religious studies as an academic qualification. Religious studies develops a range of transferable skills that are valued in many post-16 progression routes, including a range of A level subjects.

Religious Studies is of value for careers in teaching, social work, nursing and the religious organisations, as well as for careers in banking, journalism, acting, retailing, broadcasting, librarianship, police force, media and current affairs related roles.

Religious Studies provides skills not only for learning and for work – **but for life!**

Supporting Learning from Home

Valuable revision resources to purchase:

- AQA Religious Studies A Islam Textbook
- AQA Religious Studies A Christianity Textbook
- AQA Religious Studies A Revision Guide Christianity and Islam

Students will complete homework during their studies, one week will focus on Informed Quizzing, students will then complete a revision card based upon this. The second week's homework will be assigned through SENECA and will test the students on their current learning. SENECA is also a useful revision tool for students.

Students are advised to access Microsoft Teams where resources from each lesson will be uploaded.