

Religious Studies
Examination Board: AQA

What is the course like?

GCSE Religious Studies is a rigorous academic subject, that explores in depth the key beliefs and practices of two main world religions as well as a variety of philosophical and ethical issues linked to modern society.

It encourages pupils to think for themselves, question and develop empathy and understanding of the views, beliefs, actions, and perspectives of others. This is a valuable skill required for any career pathway and something which many employers look for.

“It is through others that we become ourselves” Vygotsky

You will thrive on this course if you are interested in learning about, discussing and analysing possible answers to the following:

- Different Christian beliefs about creation and the Big Bang theory?
- When does life begin?
- Should we legalise euthanasia?
- Does God exist?
- Is the death penalty an appropriate form of punishment?
- Is war ever justified?
- What happens after death for Muslims and Christians?

Written reflection and **exam practice questions** are used in many of the lessons following the above discussions and learning, to improve exam skills and progress.

What is studied during the course?

Component 1: the study of religion.

You will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of **Christianity** and **Islam**. Topics include: the nature of God, life after death, pilgrimage, festivals and the role of religion in society.

Component 2: philosophical and ethical issues. You will study the following:

Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict, Religion, Crime and Punishment and Relationships and Families.

How is the course assessed?

The pupils will complete **two exams at the end of Year 11**. Each exam will be 1 hour and 45 minutes and will make up 50% of the overall marks. The exams are not tiered, allowing pupils the chance to push themselves to achieve the best possible grade. There are no controlled assessment tasks and no coursework.

Additional Information

Pupils should take this GCSE because the course is engaging, challenging, questioning and relevant to what is going on in the world today. In a multi-cultural world, it is so important that we are aware of past and current issues and the links to religion.

During the two-year course, pupils will have the opportunity to visit places of worship to help develop knowledge and understanding of different beliefs and practices.

For further information, please contact Mrs Singer.