

Religious Studies



Qualification: GCSE

Equivalent to: 1 GCSE (grade 9-1)

The Religious Studies GCSE enables students to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth and their impact on human life. Students who study Religious Studies develop an ability to construct well argued, well-informed and balanced arguments.

Students will study Christianity and Buddhism in greater detail than at Key Stage 3. They will also explore a range of themes including Relationships and Families, Religion, Peace and Conflict, Religion, Crime and Punishment and also Religion and human rights.

Course Content

The AQA RS GCSE has two distinct parts:

1. The study of beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism
2. The study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes
 - Theme A: Relationships and families.
 - Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
 - Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
 - Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Assessment

Assessment is through two end of course exams. Both last for 1 hour 45 minutes and ask about four topic areas.

Who would enjoy and be successful on the course?

The course is enjoyed and students are successful because it looks at the major issues and questions of our time. The course invites debate and discussion about key topics in our lives and on our planet.

Progression – Sixth Form / Further Education / Careers

Religious Studies is a popular A Level where the focus is on Philosophy and Ethics. All further education and careers routes value the skills and attitudes developed by a RS GCSE.