



GCSE Religious Studies

Key contacts: Mrs A Newman
Exam Board: AQA Syllabus

Overview of the course:

Why choose Religious Studies?

We would like students to gain an understanding of the fundamental questions of life such as:

- Where do we come from?
- Why are we here?
- What happens when we die?
- What is the meaning of life?

We also look at a range of ethical and moral issues from a religious and personal perspective.

What will you study?

Questions will be explored through a study of **Christianity and Hinduism**, looking at beliefs and practices as well as how the religions respond to some key ethical issues such as relationships, war, crime and punishment and life issues such as abortion and euthanasia. Furthermore, Religious Studies is designed to engage the students with current issues that encourage debate and discussion and will appeal to students from any belief system.

Students will explore key aspects of each religion and will be able to show their knowledge, understanding and evaluative skills. At the end of the course, students will sit two examinations, one on each of the units 'Study of Religions' and 'Thematic Studies', with a view to achieving a full GCSE. The lessons will give the students the opportunity to debate and discuss belief and a range of moral issues.

Paper 1 – Key religions

Christianity – Beliefs and practices

Hinduism – Beliefs and practices

Paper 2 'Thematic Studies' looks at the following topics:

Relationships and families, for example marriage, sexuality, contraception, the role of families and gender identity.

Crime and punishment, for example good and evil, reasons for crime, types of crime, aims of punishment, treatment of criminals, suffering and the death penalty.

Religion and life, for example creation, the Big Bang, evolution, religious attitudes to the environment, animal rights, abortion and euthanasia.

Religion, Peace and conflict, for example weapons of mass destruction, pacifism, the impact of war.

Assessment

There are two examination papers to be taken at the end of the course; 50% on each paper.

Paper 1

Christianity – beliefs and practices 25%

Hinduism – beliefs and practices 25%

Paper 2

Themes 50%

Possible career path:

The skills and knowledge developed by students studying this course will be invaluable in careers where students will be working with people from different backgrounds and cultures, such as:

- The Armed Forces
- Teaching
- Law
- Medicine
- The Police

Books and Materials

Students will use a mixture of texts, online resources and supplementary materials, as appropriate. Revision Guides are also available.

Home Learning

Home Learning is set every week, following a consistent routine across the fortnightly timetable. Home Learning is intended to consolidate key skills and knowledge and build confidence.

At times the Home Learning tasks will be to prepare for an assessment and then, following the assessment, to reflect on the progress they made and work on areas of difficulty.