

GCSE Religious Studies

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Course Outline:

The GCSE in Religious Studies is an interesting and relevant course that tackles controversial issues such as war and conflict, issues of equality including gay marriage, sexism and racism. As well as studying religious belief you will be asking philosophical questions about the meaning of life and death, what makes a good relationship and if there is a God, why does he allow suffering?

The areas of study include relationships where you will look at attitudes and teachings about the nature of sex in the twenty-first century. Is it any longer reasonable to expect people not to have sex until they are married? Why should priests give up the right to get married and have a family?

Other areas of study ask questions such as what is suffering and evil and whether or not the fact that it exists means that either God does not exist or he is not the loving God many religious believers consider him to be? What is it that motivates people such as Martin Luther King to fight for justice? What role did his Christian faith play?

The course requires the study of Christianity and Judaism in depth. This will provide students with the basic foundational knowledge they need to gain high grades in the two examinations at the end of Year 11.

Skills/attributes developed/required:

- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Communication
- Use of Evidence
- Empathy

Examination Information

Exam Board: AQA

Exam: 100% Exam

Assessment outline: The course is assessed by examination only which gives students the advantage of not having to produce long and time consuming projects for coursework.

Paper 1—50% Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies, written examination: 2 hours

Paper 2—25% Study of Christianity, written examination: 1 hour

Paper 3—25% Study of a World Faith — Judaism, written examination: 1 hour

Where can it take me?

By studying and gaining a qualification in Religious Studies you are demonstrating a willingness to understand people who may be different to you.

Careers such as journalism, teaching, social work, medical jobs such as nursing or qualifying as a Doctor. The world is changing, as is the UK. We live in a society of many faiths. The 21st century requires people with a great understanding of the world, its different faiths and cultures. By studying Religious Studies you are demonstrating you have a positive outlook on the world.

What do year 10 and 11 say about Religious Studies?

“It’s different to Year 8 and 9. We debate issues, there are far more discussions. We argue and disagree with one another and everyone has the chance to have their say.”

“Some people say religion is boring. I totally disagree – how can studying issues such as war and killing, sexuality and relationships, fighting injustice and racism be boring. It’s far from it.”

“This course is about thinking. It encourages you to think for yourself and come up with your own ideas about things. I have changed my mind on a few things too. I am glad I chose Religious Studies.”