



## Religious Studies GCSE

GCSE (Religious Studies)

9-1

AQA

Who is this course aimed at?

Designed to inspire, this is a modern and engaging option course that you can choose to take in year 10. The specification includes exciting content that explores both Christian and Islamic beliefs, teachings and practices, and four thematic studies: relationships and families, peace and conflict, religion and life, and religion, crime and punishment

You will like the course if you have enjoyed Religious Studies in year 9; enjoy learning about how people make decisions on moral issues and developing your own opinions on major issues that are relevant in the 21st century.

This course will encourage and develop knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to engage in debate and discussions about life in today's society. This includes developing an understanding of non-religious beliefs.

How will I be assessed?

**This course consists of two papers:**

**Paper 1:** Beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity & Islam).

**Paper 2:** Thematic studies (Relationships & Families, Peace and Conflict, Matters of Life and Crime and Punishment).

Each exam paper is 1 hour 45 minutes, and each paper is 50% of the GCSE.

Each topic (four per paper) has a common structure of questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Pupils are familiar with the structure of the GCSE questions, as they have been learning the skills in year 9.

**Learners will be encouraged to:**

- Develop the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.

- Reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a multicultural, multifaith and global community.

- Develop knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism.

# Religious Studies GCSE

Will I enjoy the course?

You are most likely to enjoy this course if you like forming and developing opinions on moral issues through debate, whilst considering religious and non-religious beliefs that form part of the contemporary society we live in. It will enhance your skills in communication, discussion & debate, analysing & evaluating, literacy, problem solving, and awareness of moral issues. It will strengthen your ability to make moral judgements and have a better understanding of the world we live in and the people around us.

What will be expected of me?

You are expected to give 100% effort to every lesson and every piece of work you produce; take part and get involved with lessons and group activities; keep to deadlines so work does not build up and become a problem; catch up on any work you may miss; and ask for help as soon as you need it.

## What will I study?

### **Paper 1: Beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity) – 8062/13**

**Beliefs:** The nature of God, God as omnipotent, loving and kind, The Trinity, Different Christian beliefs about the Creation, The incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, The afterlife and judgement, Heaven and Hell, Sin and salvation and the role of Christ in salvation.

**Practices:** Worships, sacraments, prayer, the role and importance of pilgrimages and celebrations, the role of the church in the local community and living practices, mission, and the role of the church in the wider world.

### **Beliefs, teachings and practices (Islam) – 8062/15**

**Beliefs:** The oneness of God and the supremacy of God's will, key beliefs of Sunni Islam and Shi'a Islam, The nature of God, Angels, Predestination, Life after death, prophethood and Adam, Ibrahim, Muhammad PBUH and the Imamate and the Holy Books in Islam.

**Practices:** The Five Pillars, the Ten Obligatory Acts, Jihad, the festivals of Id-ul-Fitr and Id-ul-Adha, and the festival of Ashura.

### **Paper 2: Thematic Studies from a Christian perspective 8062/2A**

#### **Relationships and families:**

Human sexuality, sexual relationships before and outside of marriage, contraception and family planning, religious teachings about marriage, divorce and remarriage, teachings about the nature of families, and the purpose of families and beliefs about gender equality.

#### **Religion, peace and conflict:**

Concepts of peace and justice, violence protests and terrorism, reasons for war, nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction, the Just War theory, Holy War and religion as a cause of violence, pacifism and peace-making and responses to victims of war.

#### **Matters of life:**

The origins of the universe, the value of the world, the use and abuse of the environment, pollution, the use and abuse of animals, the origins of human life, abortion, euthanasia and death and the afterlife.

#### **Religion, crime and punishment:**

Crime and punishment, reasons for crime, attitudes to lawbreakers and different types of crime, three aims of punishment, attitudes to suffering and causing suffering to others, attitudes to the treatment of criminals, attitudes towards forgiveness and attitudes towards the death penalty.

