

Religious Studies and Ethics

Examining Board:	AQA
Certification:	GCSE
Subject Leader:	Mr A Black
Teacher:	Mrs C Mincher

Course Description:

Religious Studies GCSE has two course components;

- Component 1: Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam
- Component 2: Thematic - where beliefs and teachings are applied to 4 ethical themes

What's in it for me?

This course will help you to understand what makes people 'tick'. You will delve into religious and non-religious views that motivate people to act and behave in different ways. You will also tackle fundamental questions about human existence, and engage with modern ethical discussions.

How could it help with my future?

Religious Studies builds fantastic life skills that are beneficial for many careers and prepare students for the next stage in their education. It develops key skills of analysis, evaluation and decision-making which are essential in many workplaces. Ethics is a huge aspect to being involved in medicine, and technology companies are requesting applicants have RS to make ethical coding decisions. It is also particularly beneficial for those interested in the police, counselling, social work, youth work, teaching and many others which involve understanding of people.

What are some of the things I'll learn?

This GCSE provides a modern approach to studying topics related to religion. You'll look at today's issues - perhaps including things you see or read about in the news: Should we test on animals? Should the UK bring back the death penalty? Should we be free to say whatever we want? Should same-sex marriage be allowed in churches? You'll learn skills in interpreting and evaluating pieces of information, communicating and applying your knowledge, and in solving problems. You'll also have an opportunity to develop your debating skills.

How will my work be assessed?

You'll have two, 1 hour 45 minute exams at the end of the summer term of Year 11. Each exam is worth 50% of your total mark (up to 5 additional marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar).

Exam 1 - Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Christianity and Islam

- Key beliefs of Christianity and Islam
- Main practices of Christianity and Islam
- Different views from within the religions

Exam 2 - Thematic Studies

- Theme A - Relationships and families
(Same-sex marriage, divorce, sex, contraception, gender equality)
- Theme B - Religion and Life
(Abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation, life after death, origins of humanity)
- Theme E - Religion, crime and punishment
(Death penalty, prison, forgiveness, causes of crime)
- Theme F - Religion, human rights and social justice
(Human rights, human trafficking, status of women in religion, wealth and poverty, free speech)