

Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies?

GCSE Religious Studies gives you an insight into two contrasting religions and provides a variety of 21st Century issues to debate and assess, offering you the chance to explore some of the most important religious and ethical questions life will throw at you. Religious and non-religious beliefs influence how we think, what we value and the decisions we make about our individual and collective future. It is of vital importance.

What does the course involve?

Component 1:

All pupils will study Christianity and Islam, focusing on the beliefs and practices of each religion.

Component 2:

The second component of study will include a religious, philosophical and ethical consideration of the following four themes:

- Relationships and families.
- Religion and life.
- Religion, peace and conflict.
- Religion, crime and punishment.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed entirely through two examinations, each 1 hour 45 minutes long. These examinations will be on separate dates. Questions will cover both religions and the four ethical topics above.

What can a GCSE in Religious Studies lead to?

Religious Studies (RS) is open to everyone, whether of a religious persuasion or not. You simply need an open mind and a willingness to engage in discussion and debate in a respectful and encouraging atmosphere. GCSE RS is helpful for any pupil considering a career dealing with people in any capacity. Past pupils undertaking GCSE and A Level Religious Studies have gone on to study a multitude of subjects including Law, PPE, English, Psychology, Philosophy, Medicine, Teaching and Theology.

What skills does the Religious Studies course develop?

Through the course you will learn skills of empathy, analysis, interpretation, argument, and persuasion; therefore RS is an excellent platform for those wishing to develop critical evaluation, and who intend to move onto university courses which require essay-writing skills. Pupils will be encouraged to engage in debate and discussion and learn to look at ideas and beliefs from a variety of perspectives. Formulating one's own ideas is important. However, listening to and appreciating the views of others is also vital.

"Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean."

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

At a Glance

Exam Board

AQA (8062)

Assessment Type

Exam 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices, 1-hour, 45 minutes.

Exam 2: Thematic studies: 1-hour, 45 minutes.

Head of Department

Dr C Livingstone