



Course Description

GCSE Religious Studies encourages students to explore beliefs, values, meaning, purpose, and truth. Students will examine religious and non-religious viewpoints, develop their own informed opinions, and gain an understanding of how religion, philosophy, and ethics influence modern society and culture.

What topics will I be covering?

Component 1 – The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices: Christianity and Islam

Component 2 – Thematic Studies: Religion and Life Issues; Religion, Peace and Conflict; Religion, Crime and Punishment; Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through two written exams, both taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: The Study of Religions: 1 hour 45 minutes, 96 marks (+ 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Paper 2: Thematic Studies, 1 hour 45 minutes, 96 marks (+ 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Each paper includes a range of 1, 2, 4, 5, and 12 mark questions, testing knowledge, explanation, and evaluation skills

What can this qualification lead to?

Religious Studies supports progression to:

- A-level Religious Studies
- Related subjects such as Law, Sociology, Psychology, History, Philosophy, and Politics

Entry requirements vary, but a strong pass (grade 5+) is typically recommended.

How much work is required after school?

Students should expect to complete regular revision, exam practice, and homework tasks outside of lessons.

Independent study is particularly important to develop extended writing skills and confidence in evaluation questions.

What do I need to achieve a good grade?

To succeed in Religious Studies, students should:

- Enjoy discussion and debate
- Be confident expressing opinions respectfully
- Have strong literacy and communication skills
- Be willing to consider viewpoints different from their own
- Develop structured written arguments
- Revise regularly and practise exam-style questions

What career options lead on from this subject after Post-16?

This qualification leads to a variety of careers such as: Law and Civil Service, Public service, Journalism and Media, Youth and Community Work, Counselling and Social Work.

This qualification also links well to apprenticeships in: Health and Social Care, Education and Training, Travel and Tourism, Public Services

