

**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

