

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE



AQA Specification A

What topics will I study?

Religions: beliefs and practices

You will study the beliefs and practices of Buddhism and Christianity in depth, with a particular focus on how religious beliefs influence believers today. You will learn about the key ideas in these two religions and discover more about how they live.

Religious, philosophical and ethical themes

You will study a number of current issues and discover different religious and non-religious ideas about these issues. There will be lots of opportunity for discussion about what people think about the topics and why they have these opinions. The themes that you will study are:

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Crime and punishment
- The existence of God

The main religion that we will look at is Christianity, with reference to lots of non-religious views too.

What understanding and skills will I develop?

You will get a better understanding of the world in which you live by exploring debates about current issues such as prison and the environment. You will also learn more about what religious believers believe and do and the reasons for their beliefs and practices. There is also lots of chance to improve your written and verbal communication, interpretation of texts and independent thought. GCSE RS helps you to think about how you fit into the world around you and play your part in it.

How will I learn/ how will I be taught?

Lessons involve independent research, group work tasks, presentations, discussion, and extended writing. You will be given a variety of useful resources to support your learning.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams (1 hour 45 minute each). Each exam worth 50% of the final qualification.

What can this course lead on to?

Colleges and employers know that a GCSE in RS shows that you can think for yourself, empathise with others and communicate well. GCSE RS gives an excellent start to A-levels in RS, philosophy and social sciences. There are also lots of links with history and English.

Who do I need to contact for more information?

Contact Mr D. Churm, or Mrs J. Phipps.