

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

What are the key features?

The Religious Studies GCSE follows the **AQA Religious Studies A** specification. In **Year 10**, students will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of both **Christianity** and **Hinduism**, much like they have done in KS3:

- Beliefs about God
- God on Earth
- Life after death
- Sin and suffering
- Prayer and other types of worship
- Rites of passage
- Pilgrimage (holy journeys)
- Festivals
- How to help others in both the local and worldwide communities

In **Year 11**, students will study what **Christians, Hindus** and **non-religious** people in **Great Britain today** think about the following topics:

- Human sexuality and types of relationships
- Sex, contraception and sex before marriage
- Marriage, divorce and remarriage
- The purpose of families, and the roles of men and women
- How the world, humans and animals came to exist
- How we should treat the environment and animals
- Abortion and euthanasia
- Violent protest and terrorism
- War and nuclear weapons
- Victims of war, and how to work for peace
- The reasons for and different types of crime
- The aims of punishment: prison, fines and community service
- The death penalty.

How is it assessed?

100% exam - 2 x 1hr 45min exams at the **end of Year 11**. Because the exam is entirely **essay-based**, it is strongly recommended that you are currently working at around a grade 4 in English if you are considering choosing RS GCSE. If you're not quite there yet, don't worry! Come and speak to us.

Why study this course?

Because of its essay-based nature, a GCSE in RS is a great indicator to your next school, college or university that you're able to **write fluently, analyse** arguments and opinions, and form **coherent evaluations** based on evidence. This course is strongly recommended for students hoping to work in law, medicine, politics or the police.

If I have any questions which teacher(s) do I ask?

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