



All students take a full course AQA GCSE in Religious Studies, the two components of the course are:

- 1) Christian and Muslim Beliefs and Practices.
- 2) Thematic Studies

The specification is designed to provide a broad structure for the study of religion and caters for candidates of any religious persuasion or none. Pupils are required to express an informed and justified personal viewpoint on the issues. In all topics students are strongly encouraged to articulate their own viewpoint and to bring in wider religious knowledge.

Syllabus Overview / Assessment Criteria - 100% Examination sat at the end of Year 11 (2x 1hr:45mins)

Curriculum Map / Areas of Study - All students begin their GCSE course in the autumn term of Year 9 and finish their course in the summer term of Year 11 (3 year course). Each student will have RS for one lesson each week.

Set arrangements – mixed ability

Students will study the following topics as part of their course...

Year 1	Topic	Brief summary
Autumn Term	Christian Beliefs	Students will be required to have a basic understanding of the nature of the God of classical theism. Students will explore the fundamental beliefs, which unify all Christians such as the story of creation as outlined in Genesis and the Pentecost as an example of divine revelation of the Holy Spirit. Finally, students will explore what beliefs regarding life after death and the guidance that is given in the Bible for attaining salvation.
Spring Term 1	Christian Practices	Students will look at the different ways Christians pray and worship and will explore the purpose behind the variety practices. Students will explore where, why and how pilgrimage is practiced. In addition, students will look at the role of Street Pastors and be expected to critically assess their role in our contemporary society. Finally, students will look at the role of the Church in a global community, students will study the role of evangelists, missionaries and at least one charity organisation which helps countries who are less fortunate.
Spring Term 2	Muslim Beliefs	Students will be required to have a basic understanding of the nature of the Allah and the historical context in which Muhammad lived, before gaining an understanding of his impact. Students will explore the fundamental beliefs, which unify all Muslims such as the respect they have for the Qur'an. Finally, students will explore what beliefs regarding life after death and the guidance that is given in the Qur'an for attaining salvation.
Summer Term	Muslim Practices	Student will explore the five pillars and the huge impact each one has on the life of a Muslim community. Students will gain an understanding of the impact Islam has on a secular society and how in many Muslim countries secular laws and customs are intertwined with religious ones. Students will study pilgrimage and the importance of this practice for every Muslim, they will also look at the festival of Ashura and Id.

Students will study the following topics as part of their Thematic Studies course...

Year 2	Topic	Brief summary
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Autumn Term	Relationships & Families Religion Crime & Punishment	Students will explore religious attitudes to marriage, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, divorce and gender equality. Students will be encouraged to develop their own views on these topics. We will explore whether people choose their sexuality or whether it is determined from birth. Students will look at such questions such surrounding gay rights, should there be equality regarding marriage for example? Students will explore the psychological, sociological and environmental reasons for committing crimes. Students will explore whether people who commit crimes are bad/immoral people or victims of upbringing for example, we will look at whether we should punish such 'victims'. Students will be looking at the types of punishment Religious groups do support and reasons for their position.
Spring term	Religion & Life – Medical ethics	Student will be exploring religious attitudes to contemporary moral issues such as abortion euthanasia and the environment they will first learn what each issue. We will seek to develop students who have an independent and informed opinion on these issue. For example, when does life begin? should people have right to die if they choose? Are we stewards/Khalifahs of the global environment or is it ours to do as we choose?
Summer term	Religion & Life – Social Justice	Students will be looking at civil rights for women in the UK and for black people in America, We will study the exemplary work of Martin Luther King and Emily Pankhurst. Students will explore religious attitudes to these issues, students will be asked to consider whether religious attitudes reflect sexist or outdated attitudes and be asked to defend the position of our studied religions. Finally students will look at the work of charity organisations such as Islamic Relief, Christian Aid and or CAFOD and the work they do overseas and in the UK.
Home Learning	Revision	It is anticipated that students will complete the work booklets they will be issued at the beginning of their course.