

Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies A

Examination Board: AQA

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

How it's assessed

Students must take assessments in the following two components:

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each religion is marked out of 48.

Component 2: Thematic studies

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies. The following 4 themes are studied:

Theme A: Relationships and families.

Theme B: Religion and life.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each theme is marked out of 24.

Why study Ethics and Philosophy at GCSE?

Employers regard GCSE Religious Studies as a good qualification. It shows you are aware of other people's beliefs and the nature of the society we live in.

Police Officers need to have a good understanding of multi-faith and multi-cultural issues in order to do an effective job. They must show tolerance & understanding and be against prejudice & discrimination. Many UK laws are based on Christian laws and teachings!

Lawyers and Judges must study Religion & Law as part of their training. Religion has influenced most of the laws in the UK, and also in other countries. They must have a good knowledge of religious beliefs & teachings as this may affect how a person lives and acts; they should also have a good knowledge of moral issues and ethics. It is vital that a lawyer is free from prejudice as they must treat everyone equally. A teacher will usually encounter students and parents of all different races & religions and should be free from prejudice. Teachers should have a good understanding of religious beliefs & teachings as they should be able to encourage and empathise with students and their lives.

Social Workers must have a good understanding of religious and cultural issues in order to understand and empathise with the people they are entrusted to help. Religion and culture affect all aspects of life, from birth to death, in the home and at work. All social workers must be free from prejudice and must treat everyone with respect and equally!

The study of Ethics and Philosophy is a gateway to many future career choices or for study at higher levels.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Martin