

Current Year 9	RE GCSE
Syllabus Number	8062 A
Exam Board	AQA
For examination in	2017 onwards

Course Content

The subject at GCSE reflects the importance religion can play in a modern society. The two main religions we will be focusing on are Christianity and Islam, however there will be opportunity to explore Buddhism in the thematic study. The course tackles religious and secular perspectives on a range of moral and social issues and also explores humanistic and atheist beliefs. Religious Studies is accessible to persons of any religious persuasion or none.

Areas of study:

The study of beliefs, teaching and practices of Christianity and Islam.

AND

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies the four themes exploring through Christianity, Islam and another religion of their choice:

Theme B: Religion and life

- This theme explores science and religion; how they compare and how they clash, especially on ideas about the origins of the Universe and life.
- The value of the world, including environmental issues and animal rights.
- The value of human life, including issues of euthanasia and abortion.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

- Religious beliefs and attitudes towards peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Religious beliefs and teachings about violence and terrorism, both of which some religious and non-religious people are involved in.
- Beliefs and teachings about war itself and attitudes to conflict and fighting war, including when religious believers will go to war.
- Religious attitudes to peace, including how individuals have fought for peace and how religions support victims of war.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

- What we mean by crime and why people commit crimes, including the idea of evil people and action, and the way society deals with offenders.
- Impact of crimes, the suffering they cause, and how we should help victims of crime.
- Idea of punishment and the debate about the death penalty.
- Religious teachings and belief about human nature, repentance and forgiveness.

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

- Human rights – what are they, why we should have them and how religious people may view them.
- The issue of prejudice – what it is and why it may happen; religious attitudes to prejudice and discrimination, both generally and in specific situations.

- Poverty both in the UK and across the world; why there is poverty; exploitation of the poor; religious attitudes to poverty and helping those in poverty.

Course Structure

Year 9:

- Religion and Science
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.
- Beliefs, teaching and practices.

Year 10:

- Beliefs, teaching and practices.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.
- Theme B: Religion and life
- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Year 11:

- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Revision and preparing for the GCSE.

Assessment Information:

You will be assessed throughout the course with tests at the end of every half term, in the form of peer assessment, self assessment and teacher assessment. You will also be assessed on a project based on the religious aspects or the thematic aspect of the course (this is not a formally assessed piece of work, but builds on the skills necessary for the course.)

Examination Information:

Two written examinations = 1 hour 45 minutes each assessing 50% of the course content. There will be multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in both exams.

Paper 1: Beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions

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. Paper 1 = 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Paper 2: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes (Four themes.)

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.

Paper 2 = 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) Total marks: 202

What do you have to do to be successful in this subject?

Be interested in discussing and debating ideas.

Looking at how different world view point's look at the same issues.

- You will need to read around topics by watching the news, reading the news and debating the news.
- Be interested in what's happening in the world and how current affairs are affected by personal belief systems
- You will need to be prepared to discuss and debate issues.
- You will need to be organised and be able to work independently and within a group.
- Good writing skills
- You will need to be keen to practise skills such as negotiation, collaboration, discussion and debate.

Career paths:

If you are thinking about taking an A-level in RE, History, English, Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology, Government & Politics or Law, this would be a good subject for you.

Religious Studies is a relevant qualification for any job which involves working with other people but is especially relevant if you are interested in a career as a police officer, social worker, teacher, doctor/nurse, and working in the armed forces .

What you will need to do as a part of your home learning:

You will be expected to complete 60 minutes of homework every week. Students must complete homework at the times that it is set and catch up on any work and/or homework they have missed due to absences. This is also a subject that is supported by wider reading and an interest in current affairs. Watching the news and reading newspapers, will help give you more information about what is happening in the world around you.