

KEY STAGE FOUR PATHWAYS

Subject Title:	GCSE Religious Studies
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Examination Board:	www.aqa.org.uk

Course Content

In Religious Studies, pupils will study the beliefs, teaching and practices of Christianity and Judaism.

Pupils will study four of these philosophical themes

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights and society

Subject Skills

Many of the skills offered in this course are shared by all subjects but RS offers its own unique skills:

- Develops Critical Thinking: You learn to evaluate arguments, weigh evidence, and consider multiple perspectives on big questions like morality, existence, and ethics. These skills are highly transferable to subjects like English, History, and even sciences.
- Enhances Cultural Awareness: It helps you understand diverse beliefs and practices, which is valuable in today's global society. Employers often look for people who can work well in multicultural environments.
- Improves Communication Skills: You practice constructing clear, reasoned arguments in essays and discussions—great preparation for careers in law, journalism, teaching, and public service.
- Supports Other Humanities: It complements subjects like Philosophy, Sociology, and History, making it a good choice for students interested in humanities pathways.
- Encourages Ethical Reflection: You explore moral issues such as crime and punishment, medical ethics, and human rights—topics that shape real-world decision-making

Future Careers

A GCSE in Religious Studies is highly valued by employees due to the nature of transferable skills that it develops. These include analysis, evaluation, empathy, interpretation, reflection and justification to name a few. It allows students the opportunity to delve into the world that we live in, exploring religious and non-religious views on several themes as well as fostering an ethos of respect for others, an opportunity to challenge stereotypes and build an understanding of other cultures and beliefs. Religious studies provides a space for students to reflect on their own ideas and develop their thoughts about questions of meaning and ethics.

Having an understanding of others' faiths and lifestyles is essential in a wide range of careers. Previous students of RS have gone on to careers in law, medicine, teaching, childcare, social work, politics, media the police, charity and humanitarian work.

Assessment

Religious Studies is fully assessed through two exams at the end of Year 11. The assessment of each unit consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions. Students are offered extensive revision resources to prepare for their assessments

- **Exam 1** –Beliefs, Teachings & Practices of Christianity & Judaism
 - 1 hour 45 minutes to complete four sets of questions
 - Each religion is worth 25% of the final grade; 50% overall
- **Exam 2**- Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies
 - 1 hour 45 minutes to complete four sets of questions
 - Each theme is worth 12.5% of the final grade; 50% overall

