

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 also study four of these 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:

- Developing knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority
- Developing the ability to construct well-argued, balanced and structured written arguments, showing depth and breadth of understanding
- Providing opportunities to engage with questions of belief, meaning, purpose, truth, and their impact on human life
- Challenging students to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes, and contributing to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

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 and the police.

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.

- 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
 - 1 hour 45 minutes to complete four sets of questions
 - Each theme is worth 12.5% of the final grade; 50% overall

