

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is split into two sections:

Component 1: The studies of religious beliefs, teachings and practices

The two religions we study are Christianity and Islam. We will discuss challenging questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, to enable students to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture.

Component 2: The study of four religious philosophical and ethical themes

The themes we will be studying will be:

- Theme 1 – Religion and Life
Big questions include: Is it right to have an abortion? Should we experiment on animals? Is it right to help someone die (euthanasia)?
- Theme 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict
Big questions include: Is war inevitable? What are weapons of mass destruction and how do they threaten world security? What is terrorism and what is its impact in the 21st century?
- Theme 3 - Religion, Crime and Punishment
Big questions include: What are the reasons for crime being committed? What are the ethical arguments for punishment – including the death penalty?
- Theme 4 – Religion, human rights and social justice
Big questions include: What is prejudice and discrimination? The history of racism and the current world picture? What are human rights and why are they important?

These themes will be taught from a Christian and Muslim perspective contrasted with other world religious and nonreligious beliefs (Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Humanist views will be considered).

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

To achieve the GCSE, you will need good skills in the following:

- Independence of mind and initiative.
- Interpreting, analysing and evaluating information.
- Critical thinking skills.
- Communication skills.
- Developing or defending different arguments.

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding Body: AQA

ASSESSMENT METHOD

You will sit two exams:

Paper 1:

The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (1 hour and 45 minutes, 50% of the GCSE)

Paper 2:

Thematic studies (1 hour and 45 minutes, 50% of the GCSE)

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

An education in RS would prepare pupils for a range of careers and professions including the medical profession, the legal profession, the teaching profession, social services, the armed forces, politics, working for a charity, the travel industry and many, many more. It is a highly relevant course which will prepare pupils for life beyond school in the 21st Century.



“I love learning about different beliefs and cultures and gaining a more rounded view on society. This will be very useful with the increasing diversity there is in the world. It also teaches you how to formulate an opinion, argue a point and contribute meaningfully to discussions.

Furthermore, the subject gives you a good breadth of knowledge which can be applied to other subjects.”

