

General introduction

GCSE RS covers two of the major world religions and contemporary ethical themes, ensuring you have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them 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. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

The specification for the above units can be found at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

How students will be assessed Students will sit two examinations.

The details of exam content, length of exams, marks available, and the percentage of the GCSE grade which each paper makes up are below.

Paper 1 The study of religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices (1 Hour 45 minutes) 102 marks 50%

Paper 2 Thematic Studies (1 hour 45 minutes) 102 marks 50%

There will be parents evening Wednesday 23rd March when you can talk to subject teachers about how they have done, and about how they can improve further.

These are the final exam dates are...

Paper 1 Monday 15th May Morning

Paper 2 Tuesday 23rd June Afternoon

How can parents help plan for success in the GCSE exams?

Encourage your child to plan, and stick to, a timetable for revision. It is far better to revise smaller amounts of content more regularly than to try to learn the entire curriculum in the days before the exam. Quizzing your child and helping them to recall key knowledge will prepare them well, as will reading though extended written pieces and helping your child to structure them coherently.

Best websites for GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES revision

Visit the exam board website to look at past papers and mark schemes:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/assessment-resources>

Use GCSE bitesize to look at information for the AQA Religious Studies course, focus on Christianity, Islam and Themes A, B, C and F:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

Use Doodle to revise key knowledge before the exams:

<https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/app/login?>

Use Oak Academy to revise key themes for paper 2:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-11/subjects/religious-education>