

GCSE Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Director of Learning: Masuma Islam & Zoë O'Connor
 masuma.islam@Abbeyfieldschool.org.uk
 zoe.oconor@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious studies is a great subject that enables pupils to:

- Adopt and develop an understanding of both their own and other people's values and beliefs, gaining a greater sense of their own identity, values, opinions and attitudes in regard to different religious perspectives.
- Encourage philosophical thought and decision-making skills, enabling students to discuss and analyse topics they encounter in society and through the media.
- Enhance their spiritual and moral development, and contribute to their health and well-being;
- Enhance their personal, social, and cultural development enabling them to think critically, listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully, and write clearly in regard to their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world.

Possible next steps (including careers)

GCSE Religious Studies provides an excellent route to study beyond the age of 16, both for Religious Studies A level and other post-16 qualifications. A qualification in Religious Studies is valuable for a wide range of careers, such as, law, medicine, care and social work, journalism, the civil service and teaching.

Aptitudes needed

An interest in reading and writing. Clear expression on paper and orally. Good listening skills. Willingness to contribute to discussions and to develop arguments. Ability to keep to deadlines.

Topic Structure

During the two years of the course, you will be studying:

Year 10:

- **Christianity** beliefs
- **Theme B:** Religion and life
- **Christianity:** practices
- **Theme A:** Relationships and families
- **Islam:** Beliefs

Year 11:

- **Theme E:** Religion, crime, and punishment
- **Islam:** practices
- **Theme D:** Religion Peace and Conflict

Assessment Structure

Component 1:

The study of religion, beliefs, teachings and practices in the following religions:

- Christianity
- Islam

1 hr and 45 min exam (50% of qualification)

Component 2: Thematic studies – Students study the themes below:

Theme A: Relationships and families
 Theme B: Religion and life
 Theme C: Religion, crime and punishment
 Theme D: Religion, human rights and social justice

1 hr and 45 min exam (50% of qualification)