

Introduction to GCSE (Short Course) Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Why study Religious Studies?

A GCSE in Religious Studies will enable you to gain a qualification in a subject you will have been studying for most of your school life and build on the foundation that this study has provided. Depending on which areas of the subject you choose, you will discover how the beliefs of religions affect the ways in which believers make decisions about moral issues and lead their lives.

It is also an excellent basis for moving on to an AS or Advanced GCE in the Philosophy or Ethics areas of Religious Studies.

You will study four of the following topics:

- * The Nature of God;
- * The Nature of Belief;
- * Religion and Science;
- * Death and the Afterlife;
- * Good and Evil;
- * Religion and Human Relationships;
- * Religion and Medical Ethics;
- * Religion and Equality;
- * Religion, Poverty and Wealth;
- * Religion, Peace and Justice;

from the point of view of one, two or three of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

This will help you to learn about:

- * The approaches of religion and philosophy to some of the fundamental questions about human existence;
- * The approaches of religion and ethics to some of the most important questions about how people behave and why.

You will learn the following skills:

- * How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information;
- * The ability to communicate and apply your knowledge;
- * The ability to describe and analyse the key features of the religions studied;
- * Critical thinking and problem solving.

Assessment:

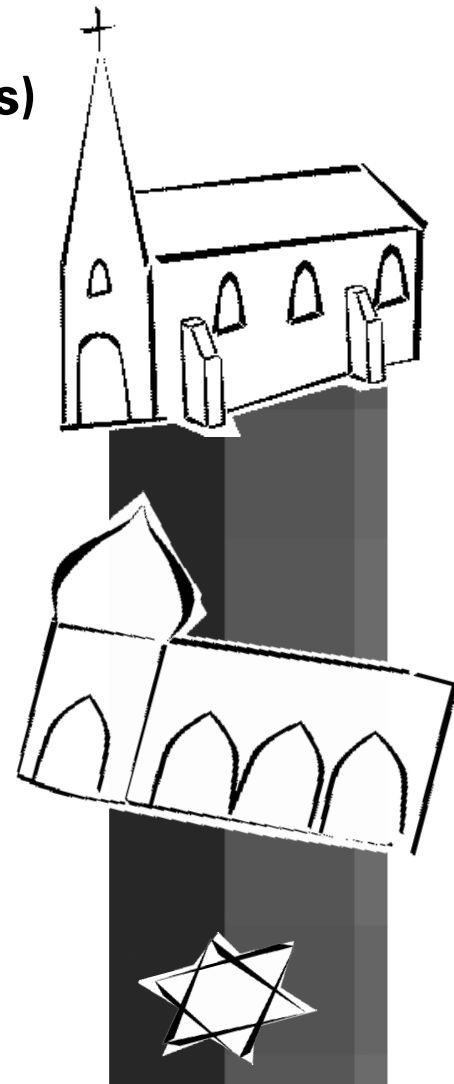
You will take one examination paper which covers the full range of grades G–A*. If you do coursework, you will answer questions on three of the topics and cover the other one in the coursework; if you are not doing coursework, you answer questions on four topics.

Coursework

If you do coursework you will write one assignment of about 1500 words, related to one of the topics you will not be taking in the examination.

Examination paper (2 hours or 1 hour 30 minutes)

All the questions are divided into three parts, each part giving you the opportunity to show a different skill. Each topic has four questions, each from the point of view of one of the religions; you can answer **one** of these per topic.



GCSE

