



Religious Studies



GCSE

Website

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

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

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What is it all about?

The GCSE Religious Studies course is about 'life issues and morality' and it offers students an opportunity for the thematic study of religion and responses to fundamental questions of life. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of religion by exploring the impact of beliefs, teachings and practices. The course also takes into consideration non-religious views on various topics related to the subject.

What can students gain from taking the subject at GCSE?

Students have frequent opportunities to express their personal responses to fundamental questions and controversial issues. Students also have opportunities to study and reflect on real life examples and use these examples to further their understanding of how these issues relate to the content that is being taught.

What will I learn on this course?

Some of the topics students will study include:

- ❖ Animal rights
- ❖ Death penalty
- ❖ Corporal punishment
- ❖ Terrorism
- ❖ Life after death
- ❖ War and peace
- ❖ Abortion
- ❖ Euthanasia
- ❖ The environment
- ❖ Marriage and divorce

How will students be assessed?

Assessment is by examination only. There are two written papers, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes only. Both papers are worth 50% of the final grade.

- ❖ Component One: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
- ❖ Component Two: Thematic studies

What career paths would Religion & Ethics be suitable for?

The skills that students will learn in Religious Studies will be useful in any number of careers: law, police force, teaching, medicine, youth work, journalism, to name a few.

What do employers want?

In many areas of work, employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an understanding and appreciation of other people's point of view and an ability to come to clear, informed decisions: these are all skills which are developed in Religious Studies.

What do current students say?

"It's really interesting. You get to learn about topics like the death penalty, euthanasia, abortion and then study what the religious beliefs are on this topic."

"It's really good, we get to have lots of discussions and debates about the topics we study and reflect on our own beliefs."