

SUBJECT: Philosophy & Applied Ethics **YEAR:** 10 & 11

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr M McCarthy

COURSE LEADER: Miss L Harris

GROUPING POLICY: Mixed Ability

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT: 100% External Examination

Link to Specification:

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

COURSE CONTENT:

Philosophy & Ethics at GCSE gives students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and evaluation skills, whilst addressing contemporary issues. It enables them to discuss opinions and weigh up the pros and cons of an argument. Additionally, it prepares students for real life situations, of which they will need to learn how to respond and behave appropriately. Furthermore, it will allow them the opportunity to learn and develop their understanding of both Christianity and Islam, two major world religions, while learning the different customs as well, preparing them for the diversity of the world in which they live.

What will my child learn?

To understand different religious and non-religious stances on social issues and to develop their ability to argue and analyse. This will be implemented through the topics below, as well as through debate and discussion, in both a verbal and written format.

The Study of Religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam

Christianity:

- Beliefs about the nature of God, creation, the afterlife and Jesus Christ and salvation.
- Worship and festivals, the role of the Church in the local and worldwide community.

Islam:

- Beliefs of Sunni and Shi'a Islam, nature of God, predestination and judgement, life after death and the authority of the Prophet Muhammad and sacred texts.
- Worship, duties and festivals.

Thematic Studies from the perspective of Christianity and Islam

Relationships and Families:

- Sex, marriage and divorce – sexuality, sexual relationships, contraception, marriage, divorce and remarriage

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- Families and gender equality – role of parents and children, purpose of families, contemporary family issues (e.g. same-sex parents), gender roles and equality.

Religion and life:

- The origins and value of the universe – religious and scientific views of creation, value of the world and stewardship, environmental issues, use and abuse of animals.
- The origins and value of human life – sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia, death and the afterlife.

Religion, peace and conflict:

- Religion, violence and terrorism – peace, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, violence, terrorism, reasons for war, pacifism, holy war.
 - Religion and belief in 21st century conflict – religion as a cause of war, nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, religion and peace-making, religious responses to war.

Religion, crime and punishment:

- Religion, crime and the causes of crime - Good and evil, reasons for crime, views about people who break the law, views about different types of crime.
- Religion and punishment – the aims of punishment, the treatment of criminals, forgiveness, the death penalty.

What will homework look like?

A variety of tasks may be set to take approximately 2 hours per fortnight. These tasks may include the reading of articles, researching information, small projects, practising exam technique, consolidating classwork or review of marked work.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Deep learning day activities
- Trips to local religious buildings
- Independent research

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

Classwork and homework will be marked regularly in line with the school marking policy. The GCSE is assessed through 100% external examination.

There are 2 exam papers:

Paper 1 - The Study of Religion (beliefs, teachings and practices)

- 1 hour 45 minutes

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- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 - Thematic Studies

- 1 hours 45 minutes
- 50% of the GCSE

These exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

- Discussion of topics covered
- Discussion and encouragement to read around moral / ethical issues
- Access to ICT for research

How can I support my child with exams?

- Revision techniques and timetable
- Discussion and questioning using past papers
- Encourage a range of revision techniques

