



**SUBJECT:** GCSE 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**

### **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.

### **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
- 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
- Guest speakers
- 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
- 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

