



Religious Studies Curriculum Information - GCSE

As students embark on their RS GCSE, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 4 RS:

We follow the AQA exam board specification A. The course has 2 elements to it. The first part is a study of 2 religions; we have chosen Christianity and Islam. Students learn both the beliefs and practices of these religions, including key beliefs about the nature of God, life after death, scripture, festivals, pilgrimage, prayer and worship.

The second part looks at ethical and philosophical themes. The exam board offers 6 themes and students must answer questions on 4 of the themes in their exam.

The themes are:

1. Relationships and families
2. Religion and life
3. The existence of God and revelation
4. Religion, peace and conflict
5. Religion, crime and punishment
6. Religion, human rights and social justice

Following a discussion with the students we come to a democratic decision about which themes they want to focus on.

The Beliefs and Practices are normally covered in Year 10, as they provide a foundation for the work in the themes Section. We start the themes towards the end of Year 10 and then continue in Year 11.

The course consists of 2 exams of 1 hour and 45 minutes each; one Beliefs and Practices of both religions and one on the themes. Students answer 4 sets of questions in each exam consisting of a 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark question.

Classes have 2 teachers, each teaching one of the religions and 2 themes.

More information about the specification can be found [here](#)

Textbooks and resources:

The students will have 3 exercise books in total; 2 A5 exercise books for the Beliefs and Practices work (one green for their Islam work and one purple for Christianity) and one A4 blue exercise book for their themes work.

They will be provided with 2 textbooks at the start of Year 10 (one for each religion and both containing all the themes). Students also have access to the textbook on Kerboodle so we don't require the students to bring their textbooks to every lesson unless they wish to do so. Other resources are provided as needed.

Homework and assessment: Homework of 40 minutes duration can be set once a week in RS to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school. Homework may take the form of a written or online piece which is marked and then returned in class when feedback will be given. If your child is struggling with their homework then they should talk to their teacher about it so that support can be provided. We will continuously monitor student progress throughout the years with end of topic tests and practice exam questions to check that homework and classwork is understood.

Revision: We also have a subscription to e-revision which provides a wide range of revision tasks which students can access whenever they want. Regular retrieval practice using this website will help students to consolidate their knowledge of the content of the course.

Co-curricular RS: There is a Philosophy Club held most weeks that all students are welcome to attend.

More information can be found on the [RS subject page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs K Knight, Head of RS, on kknight@ahs.bucks.sch.uk