


Aylesbury High School | Prepare, Challenge & Inspire



Religious Studies

Curriculum Intent

Key Stage 3

Students are introduced to world religions and non-religious world views including beliefs and practices. Throughout KS3, three broad areas of religion, philosophy and ethics are the lenses through which lessons are examined.

They will have opportunities to explore questions of meaning, identity and purpose. Students learn how to respond with developed explanations which draw on firm knowledge of religious and non-religious views but also challenge and extend their own perspectives.

In Year 7 students are introduced to philosophical questions and core religious ideas. In Year 8 students explore issues of faith and how key religious ideas influence and guide people's actions.

Key Stage 4

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of 2 specific religions: Islam and Christianity. They cover religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority, including a study of key religious texts. Students also develop the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.

Key Stage 5

Students will undertake an in-depth study of two core areas: philosophy of religion and ethics; and a study of religion (Christianity). Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the meaning and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs. They will consider the influence of these beliefs and teachings on individuals, communities and societies, the cause and significance of similarities and differences in beliefs and teachings and examine the approach of philosophy to the study of religion and belief. Students will be able to analyse and evaluate issues arising from the topics, the views and arguments of scholars such as Aquinas, Aristotle, Hume and Paley. They will also be able to use specialist language and terminology appropriately.

Curriculum Implementation

Key Stage 3

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Who am I?How did the world come into being?How do people think about God?What similarities and differences are there in the beliefs and practices of the world's major religions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What is faith?How do different people express their faith?Religion and young peopleExtremism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Religious responses to moral issuesUltimate questionsThe Problem of EvilThe HolocaustReligion today

Key Stage 4: GCSE (AQA)

Year 10	Year 11
<p>AQA Religious Studies A: Themes and Christianity</p> <p>Themes religion and life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Origins of lifeEnvironmentAbortionEuthanasia <p>Themes religion, peace and conflict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Violence and terrorismNuclear warJust War theoryPacifism <p>Themes religion, crime and punishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Crime and punishmentAims of punishmentSufferingForgivenessDeath penalty <p>Christian beliefs and teachings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The nature of GodThe incarnationThe crucifixion, resurrection and ascensionThe afterlife and judgment <p>Christian practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">WorshipPrayerSacramentsFestivalsCommunity	<p>AQA Religious Studies A: Themes and Islam</p> <p>Themes religion, human rights and social justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Justice and rightsPrejudice and discriminationReligious freedomWealthPovertyExploitation of the poor <p>Muslim beliefs and teachings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oneness of GodSunni and Shi'a IslamNature of GodAngelsProphethoodIbrahimMuhammadHoly books <p>Muslim Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Five Pillars, the Ten Obligatory ActsSalahSawmZakahHajjJihadFestivals

Key Stage 5: A Level (AQA)

Year 12	Year 13
<p>AQA Religious Studies - Philosophy of religion and ethics & a study of Christianity</p> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Arguments for God's existence (design, ontological, cosmological)Evil and sufferingReligious experience <p>Ethics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Normative theoriesNatural moral law □ Situation ethicsAristotle's virtue ethicsApplication of theories <p>Christianity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sources of wisdomGodSelf, death and afterlifeGood conduct and moral principles	<p>AQA Religious Studies - Philosophy of religion and ethics & a study of Christianity</p> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Religious languageMiraclesSelf, death and afterlife <p>Ethics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to meta-ethicsFree will and moral responsibilityConscienceBentham and Kant <p>Christianity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender and sexualityScienceSecularisationReligious pluralism

Impact

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, RS students complete a series of assessments across each unit topic. These range from written essays to researched projects such as 'faith in action—how much was a person such as Martin Luther King driven by his religious beliefs?' Other units involve an exploration of topics such as 'ultimate questions' which require students to explain different worldviews and to convey their own perspectives.

Assessments in RS provide an opportunity for students to build overall worldviews whilst making good use of retained knowledge. They are also a chance for students to develop writing skills in RS including quotations from religious sources and balanced evaluations.

Students receive a judgement for each assessment relating GCSE style levels. Each assessment is provided with a structured guide for how to attain each level.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, RS students complete a range of exam questions, all stemming from AQA materials and supported by exemplars, mark schemes and other forms of support. These are marked to exam standards and feedback is in the form of marks and targets rare set relating to assessment objectives in Religious Studies. Students also complete formal assessments for each unit studies in years 10 and 11. These exam questions are done in class under timed conditions. Various forms of scaffolding and support are used which taper away as students progress through the course.

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5, students complete a range of exam questions mainly stemming from AQA materials and supported by exemplars, mark schemes and other forms of support. These are marked to exam standards and feedback is in the form of marks and targets are set relating to assessment objectives in Religious Studies—AO1 knowledge and understanding and AO2 Evaluation. Students also complete timed essays for each unit in years 12 and 13. These essays are done as timed assessments in class. These exam questions are done in class under timed conditions. Various forms of scaffolding and support are used which taper away as students progress through the course.