



This handout is designed to help you as a parent/carer support your child with their GCSE in Religious Studies. Over the year and a half of study, your child will explore many different points of view and be expected to engage respectfully and thoughtfully with the material we will discuss. Religious Studies is a fantastic stepping stone into future courses like Philosophy, Law, Ethics, and other Humanities. If you have any questions about the course please do not hesitate to contact myself at [amackay@shevingtonhigh.net](mailto:amackay@shevingtonhigh.net)

Mr Mackay

## What are we studying?

We study the AQA Religious Studies A Course. There are two papers that pupils will complete in this GCSE; the Religions paper and the Themes Paper. The religions that they will be looking at are *Islam* and *Christianity*. The themes that we will cover over the course are:

*Relationships and Families*

*Religion and Life*

*Religion, Crime and Punishment*

*Religion, Peace and Conflict*

### **At the start of year 1:**

- We have looked at Christian Beliefs and are currently look at Islamic Beliefs
- We will then be moving onto our themes of Relationships and Families and Religion and Life, looking at complicated moral issues and religious perspectives on them.
- We will then finish Y10 by looking at Christian Practices, and recapping Christian Beliefs

## Questions you might ask at home!

- What are different religious beliefs in the afterlife?
- What are the six articles of faith for Sunni Muslims?
- Can you tell me about different perspectives on life and death within a religion?
- How do different people respond to the problem of evil in our world?
- Why are Holy Books so important to religious believers?

## Other Ways you can help

There are a variety of ways you can support your son/daughter with their GCSE course:

- CGP Revision guide on Christianity and Islam
- Hodder Education Christianity, Islam and THEMES Revision Guide
- CGP Revision Cards

## Useful Websites

**BBC Bitesize** has a helpful summary about many of the topics that we will be covering across the year. It is very helpful for an overview if you cannot remember much about a subject!



**Oak National Academy** has lessons that are tailored to be completed online. They have a good amount of depth, so can be helpful if you missed a lesson, or want to revise something more thoroughly.



**Seneca** is an excellent tool that will guide your child through a subject by regular teaching and quizzing. This will often be set as homework, so it is useful to be aware of how it works.



## Revision Strategies

**Revision Cards:** Students can either turn them into question cards (answer on the back) or summarise a topic on each card and test themselves on the content.

**Practice Exam Questions:** Constant practice can improve their performance and technique. Staff are available to mark and give feedback on any questions they practice.

**Condensing Notes:** By rewriting notes and cutting them down each time, students can revisit notes multiple times to help them to repeat content.

**Practising 12 Mark Questions:** The longest questions on the exam paper are 12 marks. Pupils will need to know a variety of views on one topic. It can be useful for pupils to go through topics we have covered and test themselves to see if they know a range of beliefs for the one topic.

