

# Religious Studies

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In 2001, 67% of the UK population identified themselves as affiliated to a religion ([www.ons.org.uk](http://www.ons.org.uk)). By 2050, it is predicted that atheists, agnostics and others who do not affiliate with a religion – though increasing in some countries in the West – will make up a declining share of the world's total population ([www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)). Religion, in all its forms, attempts to understand fundamental questions about human existence and it has shaped our cultures for millennia. These are just some of the reasons why studying GCSE Religious Studies is important and relevant.

In this GCSE you will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the two largest traditions in the UK and the world: Christianity & Islam. You will interrogate some of the biggest philosophical and ethical issues facing humanity:

- Does God exist?
- What happens when we die?
- What is our responsibility to the environment?
- Should abortion be allowed?
- Can war ever be justified?
- How should we deal with criminals?

The specification aims to enable you to:

- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- Explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, and engage with them intellectually and respond personally.
- Enhance your spiritual and moral development, and contribute to your health and well-being.
- Enhance your personal, social and cultural development, your understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and contribute to social and community cohesion.
- Develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world.
- Reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in light of your learning.

In the study of Christianity & Islam, you will cover:

- Key beliefs (nature of God, afterlife, creation, authority).
- Practices (worship, festivals).

- The role of the church in the local and worldwide community.

In religious, philosophical and ethical studies, you will cover:

- God & Revelation (including philosophical arguments for and against God's existence).
- Religion and life (including abortion, euthanasia, animal rights).
- Religion, peace and conflict.
- Religion, crime and punishment.

## How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course you will take **two exams each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes which are worth 50% each.**

## Further Information

This GCSE will be complemented by the core Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (RPE) course followed by all girls at Key Stage 4. We aim to provide opportunities for girls to visit places of worship and to meet people from faith traditions. We also hope to do a residential trip to London to support the GCSE course.

Exam Board: AQA Syllabus Draft 8062

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