

Religious Studies FAQs

1. Is GCSE Religious Studies a compulsory subject?

A: No. There is a small element of RS in your compulsory Values lessons (every other Monday instead of Lifetracks in Years 10 and 11) but in order to fully learn about religion, philosophy or ethical issues you must pick RS as an option.

2. How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework in GCSE RS.

3. What are the exams like?

Paper 1 is your Study of Religion exam. It is a 1hr 45min written exam and will count for 50% of your GCSE RS grade. Paper 2 is your Thematic Studies exam. It is also a 1hr 45min written exam and will also count for 50% of your GCSE RS grade.

4. Do GCSE RS pupils normally do well in their exams?

GCSE RS students at our school achieve excellent exam results. In 2018 our progress 8 score was +1.5. This means on average our pupils achieved OVER ONE AND A HALF GRADES HIGHER THAN EXPECTED! In 2019 it was +0.3 which means pupils achieved on average a third of a grade higher than expected. Last year it was +0.9, so almost a grade higher.

5. Which teachers teach GCSE RS?

There are three of us in the Religious Studies department, who all teach GCSE classes. They are Ms Moon, Ms Bennett and Mr Roebuck.

6. Is there a lot of writing in GCSE RS?

Yes, RS is a written subject, so you will be expected to write a lot in GCSE RS.

7. What will I learn about if I pick GCSE RS?

Paper 1 is all about Islam and Christianity. You will discover what Muslims and Christians believe, as well as how those beliefs are expressed through religious practice. Paper 2 is about ethical themes and how religions view certain ethical issues. The topics in paper 2 are: Religion Crime and Punishment, Religion Peace and Conflict, Religion Human Rights and Social Justice and Religion Relationships and Families.

8. What can I do later if I pick GCSE RS?

Many of our GCSE pupils go on to study RS at A level, and then pursue a wide range of different university courses and careers. Some occupations our former students went into are: Police officer, solicitor, social worker, midwife, teacher, charity manager, counsellor... RS is useful in any job where you work with people, because it is about understanding human beings!

9. Anything else I should know about the subject?

As a Humanities subject RS compliments History and Geography very well, but it also offers something unique. It is not about making you religious, it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religion, philosophy, and moral issues happening in the world around you right now.