



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - GCSE

### GCSE Religious Studies

This is an exciting and contemporary relevant issue-based course in which students will have the opportunity to consider different philosophical and ethical issues that are relevant to contemporary society as well as developing their understandings of world religions, particularly Christianity and Judaism.

The course enables students to grapple with the big questions relating to existence and human life and encourages them to think about what they believe as well as learning about the beliefs of others. Students will critically engage with the attitudes of different believers as well as the views of atheists and humanists on the different topics, assessing the persuasiveness of such views.

There are eight units of study which make up the two examinations that will be taken at the end of Year 11. The examinations have an equal worth and each last one hour and 45 minutes. Students will be assessed on their ability to convey religious beliefs and their ability to present and evaluate the opinions of others, justifying their own opinions by offering reasoning to support their claims. The examination papers have a mixture of short answer questions and longer questions.

There are eight units of study:

#### Paper 1

- What do Christians believe about God and life after death?
- How does being a Christian affect a person's life?
- What do Jews believe about God and the mitzvah (commandments)?
- How does being Jewish affect a person's life?

#### Paper 2

- What are the arguments for and against the existence of God?
- What do different religions believe about sexual relationships and gender equality?
- What do different religions believe about war and terrorism?
- What do different religion teach about the value of human life (euthanasia and abortion), animal rights and the environment?

### Careers and GCSE Religious Education

GCSE Religious Education is a relevant qualification for any job which involves working with other people. The UK is a multi-faith society and an understanding of our differences will help us live and work peacefully together!

**Law**

Lawyers and judges must study Religion and Law as part of their training. They must have a good knowledge of religious beliefs and teachings as this may affect how a person lives and acts; they should also have a good knowledge of moral issues and ethics. It is vital that a lawyer is free from prejudices as they must treat everyone equally.

**Medicine**

Doctors, Nurses and Midwives need a firm understanding of medical ethics and many religious teachings directly influence their job. At GCSE we study: abortion, euthanasia, contraception, fertility treatments, sanctity vs quality of life arguments.

**Police**

Police Officers need to have a good understanding of multi-faith and multi-cultural issues in order to do an effective job. They must show tolerance and understanding and be against prejudice and discrimination.

**Veterinary Medicine**

Vets need to make ethical decisions every day. They must be able to show empathy towards animals and their owners. At GCSE we study animal rights.

**Armed Forces**

The Armed Forces, especially the Army, should have a clear understanding of religious and cultural issues when they visit foreign countries. At GCSE, we study peace and conflict.

If you require any further information regarding GCSE RS, please do not hesitate to contact either Miss Rigby ([arigby@gshs.org.uk](mailto:arigby@gshs.org.uk)) or Miss Howard ([showard@gshs.org.uk](mailto:showard@gshs.org.uk)) or go to the AQA website for further details of the specification.