

Subject: Religious Studies	Awarding Body: AQA
Head of Dept: Mrs Palmer	Teacher: Mrs Palmer

Preferred entry requirements:
 Grade 5 or above in GCSE English.
 Grade 6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies.

Specification Content

A level Year 1	Year 2
Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics.	Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues, from ONE religious faith.

Structure of the course:

Students study two components over the 2 years. Both components are assessed externally in their final year. For component 2 a religious tradition is chosen from the five available options: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism or Hinduism. Each component makes up 50% of the total A level and each component consists of a 3 hour written examination paper. Each paper consists of two compulsory two-part questions, worth 10 marks and 15 marks. The 10 mark question tests students' knowledge and understanding of religion and belief (A01) and the 15 mark question tests their ability to analyse and evaluate religion and belief (A02). Component 2 also has two synoptic questions from a choice of four, testing both A01 and A02, each worth 25 marks.

Method:

Teaching is carried out using a variety of methods including prescribed texts, note taking, handouts, presentations, PowerPoints, DVDs, discussion, games, research in the library and on line, visiting speakers and RS sixth form conferences to meet other students in order to share knowledge and opinions. Students will be expected to work collaboratively and independently by tackling questions, carrying out research and independent study and learning.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

Candidates are encouraged to develop their understanding of social, moral, ethical, social and religious issues in considerable depth. They can deepen their understanding of the ways in which culture shapes and is shaped by religious belief. Also, the range of skills like analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and the ability to produce extended evaluative pieces of writing will prepare students for a range of further courses in higher education or employment generally. It is a challenging, interesting and thought provoking course.

What students do with this qualification:

This course is growing in popularity in recent years and provides students with elements to relate to aspects of human experience, especially in a multicultural society. It goes well with both Science and Humanities subjects and has several cross curricular links with History, Sociology, English and Science. It is useful for any job which involves interacting with people, including Legal and Medical and is a good basis for a variety of courses in further education.