

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CURRICULUM 2020-21

The Religious Studies course here at Shuttleworth College looks at fundamental questions about life, death and the purpose of existence. It examines issues facing people in all parts of the world and aims to help students understand their own personal beliefs and how they might be able to influence events. It is important for students to gain a different perspective on the big issues of life – issues such as, where we come from, what happens to us after we die and why suffering exists in our world; as well as tackling some key moral questions and dilemmas.

KEY STAGE 3

Key Stage 3 Religious Studies is delivered by our Humanities teachers and the syllabus addresses key questions in each year group:

- Year 7: Where do I Belong?
- Year 8: Where can I Find Guidance?
- Year 9: Where can I Seek Truth and Find Meaning?

Within each of these key questions each of the six major world religions will be focused upon as well as a Humanist approach.

Please see the curriculum route on the RS subject page to find out more about the units covered in each key question.

Each term, the students will complete an assessment based on their learning. Students' classwork is also marked frequently and they are then given the opportunity to improve on their work based on the feedback from their teacher. To develop students' understanding, they could watch the news and current affairs programmes and discuss their views and opinions on what is going on in the world. They could also speak to other people about their beliefs and values and think about why people might have viewpoints contrary to their own. Debating with others opens our minds to other possibilities and perspectives. It is this critical thinking and objectivity that will help students to excel in Religious Studies. They can also explore the subject further using the links on our webpage.

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KEY STAGE 4

Key Stage 4 students follow the specification for **GCSE AQA A Religious Studies**. They will cover two papers' worth of content during their two years, which are:

- Paper 1: **The Study of Religions, Beliefs, Teachings & Practices** – Christianity & Islam.
- Paper 2: **Thematic Studies** which covers Religion and Life, Relationships and Families, Religion, Peace and Conflict and Religion, Crime and Punishment.

Throughout the two years they will be continually assessed by their teacher on GCSE practice questions which will be done mainly in class. They will also sit regular end-of-unit exams in order to prepare them for their final GCSEs. From these assessment points, targeted interventions will be undertaken in order to support or challenge them. Self and peer assessment, just like in Key Stage 3 RE, will play a part in lessons, enabling students to better engage with the success criteria. At the end of the two years, students will sit 2 exam papers.

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are written examinations which last for 1 hour & 45 minutes and are each worth 50% of the final GCSE grade. Both papers are worth 96 marks and follow the same question structure.

Students can do additional research around the subject, which can be done through their prep homework, set fortnightly by their teacher. The tasks will include watching videos about the topics being studied in lesson as well as recapping previous topics studied to ensure that the pupils are testing their long-term memory. Homework will follow a structure of knowledge recall tests which will be done weekly to ensure that students are retaining their knowledge. Although there is a lot of content to remember in GCSE RE, it is not only the content that they need to be confident with, but also how they answer the questions on the exam paper. The more practice the students get, the more confident they will become, therefore completing past papers and GCSE questions under timed conditions is the most suitable way to prepare for exams.