

Religious Studies GCSE

Curriculum Leader: Mrs Knight



Giving you the skills and confidence to ask "Why?"

The fastest growing GCSE subject at Hurstmere!



“Is this even a real GCSE subject?!”

Just to be clear...

You do not need to be religious (anymore than you would to take English GCSE) and this course is not designed to turn you into a Priest!

One of the fastest growing GCSE subjects at Hurstmere

Since I began working at Hurstmere, we have doubled our numbers of GCSE students year on year!

Transferable skills:

- Essay writing
- Use of sources
- Evaluation
- Showing objectivity
- Ability to tackle sensitive topics with maturity

Quote from OFSTED Inspector:

“A GCSE in Religious Studies is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities. Employers find it irreplaceable as it is vital to helping you develop the skills and understanding needed to work in an increasingly globalized workplace.”

Pathway to A-Level subjects

RS GCSE opens doors to the following A-Levels:

- ✓ Law
- ✓ Sociology
- ✓ Philosophy
- ✓ History



Course content

Component 1: Study of religions – beliefs, teachings and practices of **Christianity** and **Buddhism**

Component 2: Thematic studies

- **Life issues** (abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation, risks and benefits of AI, origins and value of the universe etc)
- **Peace and conflict** (causes and impact of terrorism, arguments for and against the use of WMDs etc)
- **Crime and punishment** (causes of crime, different types and efficacy of punishment in the UK, arguments for and against the death penalty etc)
- **Human rights and social justice** (causes of prejudice and discrimination, gender equality, religious freedom, responsibilities of wealth, exploitation of the poor etc)



Exam board information

Exam board: AQA

Course title: GCSE Religious Studies A 8062

Qualification: Full Course GCSE

Assessment structure: Two 1.5 hour written exams at the end of year 11

No coursework



Quotes from previous students

"I'll be honest, I ended up putting RS as my back up option because I didn't know what else to put..."

BUT it ended up being my favourite! I loved being able to talk about subjects that actually mattered and it was great that I could voice my opinion.

I also got by far my best grade in it too!"

Elliot

"I wasn't sure if this subject was for me because I am not religious! But I quickly realised that it was actually better that I wasn't because it meant that I was able to think about lots of different, contrasting opinions and work out how I personally felt about it all."

Jack

"I really enjoyed this subject, the things that we talked about and learnt about were really interesting and linked in with a lot of my other options, like prejudice and discrimination worked really well with History GCSE."

Harry

"Religious Studies was a really great addition to my options because it gave me lots of skills that I could use in other subjects.

It gave me experience in writing essays, considering opposing viewpoints and using evidence to back up my own opinions.



It also taught me never to just accept what I am told, to always work out what my own personal view is on something, rather than just following the crowd!"

Oscar

Potential trips to enhance our learning

- ✓ Shepton Mallet Prison (Crime and Punishment)
- ✓ Royal Courts of Justice (Crime and Punishment)
- ✓ Houses of Parliament (Crime and Punishment)
- ✓ London Zoo (Life ethics)
- ✓ Berlin (Prejudice and Discrimination / War and Conflict)
- ✓ Wat Buddhapadipa Temple (Buddhist Practices)
- ✓ Canterbury Cathedral (Christian Practices)
- ✓ Lourdes, France (Christian Practices)



Outcomes of the subject content and transferable skills taught...

A-Levels and Degrees

- ❖ Law
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Philosophy
- ❖ Sociology
- ❖ English
- ❖ Religious Studies

Careers

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Policing
- ✓ Advertising
- ✓ Human Resources
- ✓ Medicine (ethics!)
- ✓ Solicitor
- ✓ Journalism
- ✓ Politics



Expectations for Religious Studies GCSE at Hurstmere



Pupils will have 5 hours of Religious Studies over the 2-week timetable



Homework will be set via Seneca as a form of revision and checking for understanding



Pupils will require strong levels of literacy and be willing to write at length



Hard work and commitment to the subject is required



Any questions?

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