

GCSE Religious Studies – Y9 Transition

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”(Socrates)

Religious Studies touches on some of the most profound questions about human existence: Is there an afterlife? Is there a God? Why do good people suffer? How do I become a good person? Nationally, all schools have a statutory duty to teach RE. At Durham Johnston, all students are entered for the **GCSE in Religious Studies** Full Course (AQA). The subject is taught for one period per week; therefore, the GCSE course commences in Year 9 to allow more curriculum time to deliver the course. Results at GCSE are excellent and, each year, a good number of students go on to study the subject at A Level.

GCSE Religious Studies is an engaging, thought-provoking, and relevant subject. The course helps to hone students' critical thinking skills, their ability to construct an argument, and develop their social, moral, cultural, and spiritual awareness. Having an appreciation of the diverse religious, ethical, and cultural practices in modern Britain is crucial. The GCSE course consists of the study of different religions, with a particular focus on Christianity and Judaism. In addition, students will explore a range of fascinating ethical issues during the course including sexual ethics, abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty, to name but a few.

<p>Preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have already begun the GCSE course. To excel in the subject, students should engage enthusiastically in each lesson and have the intellectual courage to share their views during classroom discussions. • On Teams, the RE Department shares a wealth of support materials including podcasts, keyword lists, model answers, past paper questions etc. • Quizlet is an excellent resource for learning key vocabulary. • BBC Bitesize, the Moral Maze, the YouTube Channel Wise Revise and the RE Podcast are all excellent resources. • Watching the News or reading a newspaper regularly can be an effective way of learning about religious and ethical issues in contemporary society. 	
<p>Overview of course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exam Board: AQA ✓ External exams: Paper 1: Christianity and Judaism; Paper 2: Ethical Themes <p>There is no coursework/NEA for RE. Regular assessments are set so that students have plenty of opportunities to practise the various exam skills.</p>	
<p>Short term focus: Term 1</p>	<p>In the September of Year 10 we explore Theme B: Religion and Life which addresses issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The origins of the universe and humanity • Sanctity of life • Abortion • Euthanasia • Animal Experimentation • Afterlife 	
<p>Careers & Suitability</p>	<p>This course would suit you if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You like to be made to think. • You enjoy grappling with big questions. • You are interested in learning about people and the diverse society of modern Britain. • You are interested in current affairs, ethical and philosophical issues. • You enjoy expressing your views verbally or in an essay. 	<p>Careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work • Journalism • Law • Teaching • Business • Counselling • Religious vocation • HR