

# GCSE Religious Studies



## Why study RS?

Of all the subjects available to you at GCSE, Religious Studies is the most relevant to daily life. Every day the media reports on issues central to the GCSE course – from religious extremism to homophobic bakeries.

RS gives you the opportunity to learn the truth behind the headlines. It also helps you to develop your critical thinking skills; you will learn to evaluate arguments and investigate different attitudes.

RS has strong links with other Humanities subjects. There is a lot of crossover between topics in RS and topics in Psychology (crime and punishment), and we use the same skill set as both History and Geography. The course is assessed through 5 different types of questions – including key word definitions and evaluative essays.

25% achieved a Grade 9!

*"I chose RS because of the opportunity to look into life's bigger questions. I loved looking into a range of different philosophical, ethical and religious issues...Throughout the course I felt fully supported with teachers going above and beyond to help us!"*

Shared topics with Psychology, History and Geography.

Most of our students take at least one of these subjects. We look at Crime and Punishment (Psychology) where we look at real life murder cases and decide whether or not the death penalty should be used, Social Justice (Geography) where we explore the causes of poverty and effects of natural disasters...

"What have you enjoyed most about studying RE?"  
I've enjoyed hearing different beliefs, especially those commonly misrepresented in the media. I've also enjoyed being challenged with questions about controversial issues such as abortion and weapons of mass destruction, and weighing up arguments to discover what I believe about things.



**Critical Thinking**

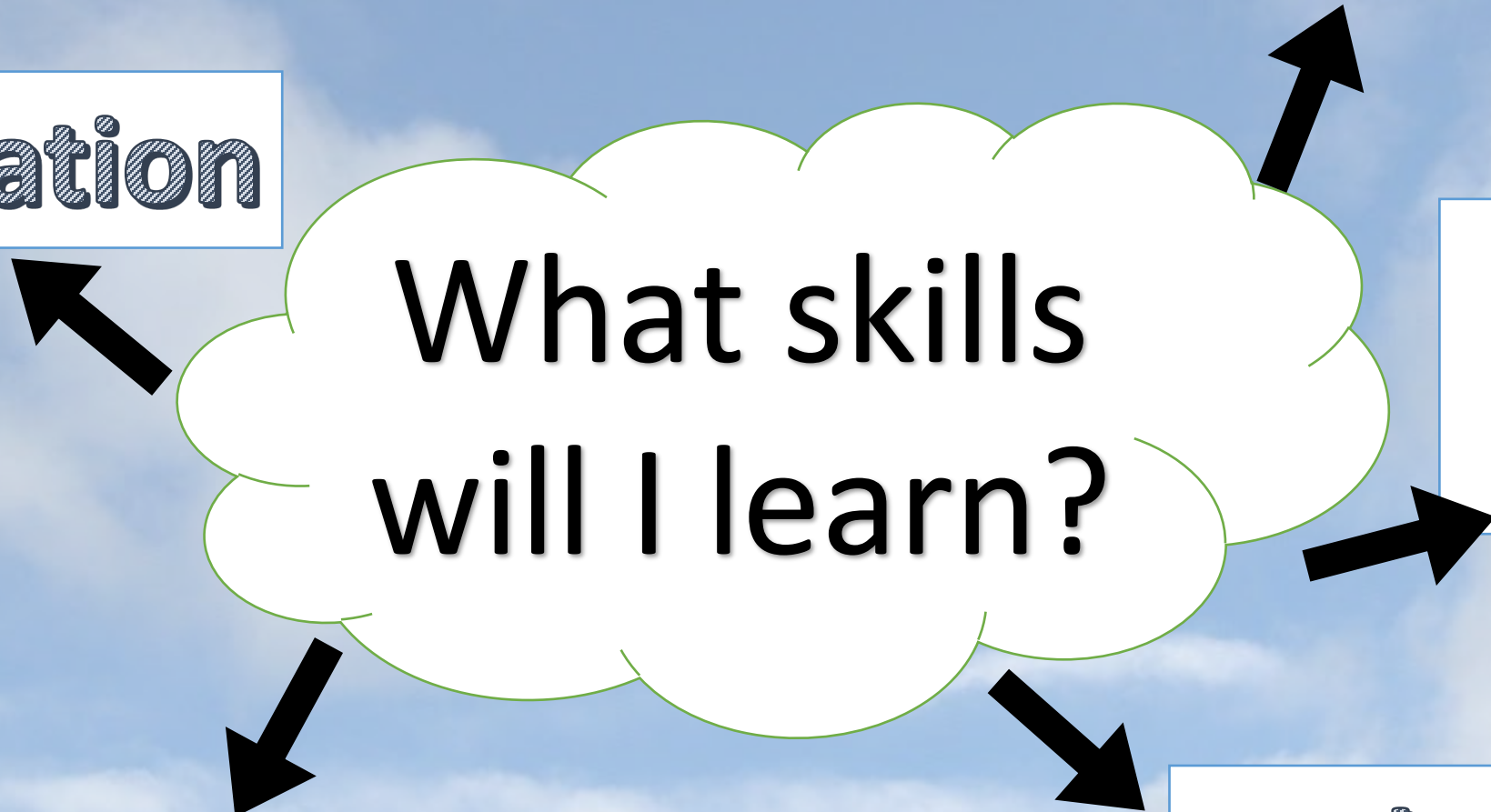
**Evaluation**

**What skills  
will I learn?**

**Essay  
Writing**

**Analysis**

**Explanation**



# Why take Religious Studies?

## **Big business:**

The City firms, the banks, the management consultancies and the chartered accountants are enthusiastic about people who've done philosophy, because they know how to think clearly.

## **Real Life**

Religious Studies has real life applications. Should gay marriage be legal? Is it right to let people end their own lives?

## **It's interesting**

Which other subjects talk for an hour about the acceptability of abortion? Or whether or not God truly exists?

## **Lawyers and Journalists:**

RS students also go into law, politics, and the civil service.

Journalism is a logical career path, since you have to be able to write well and present ideas logically and clearly.

# What subjects does it fit with?

## Psychology

In Crime and Punishment, we look at the reasons behind crime. Should drug addicts be forgiven for committing crimes to fund their habits?

## History

Looking at different sources – historical or religious – and analysing their reliability, validity and context. Engaging critically with source material.

## Business

How ethical is big business really?  
Which economic approaches provide greatest good for the greatest number?

## Sociology

What role does religion play in our society? And how do we apply ethical theories to our interactions with others?

## Sciences

Thinking of becoming a doctor?  
Then why not look at medical ethics – should Patient X be given this transplant?

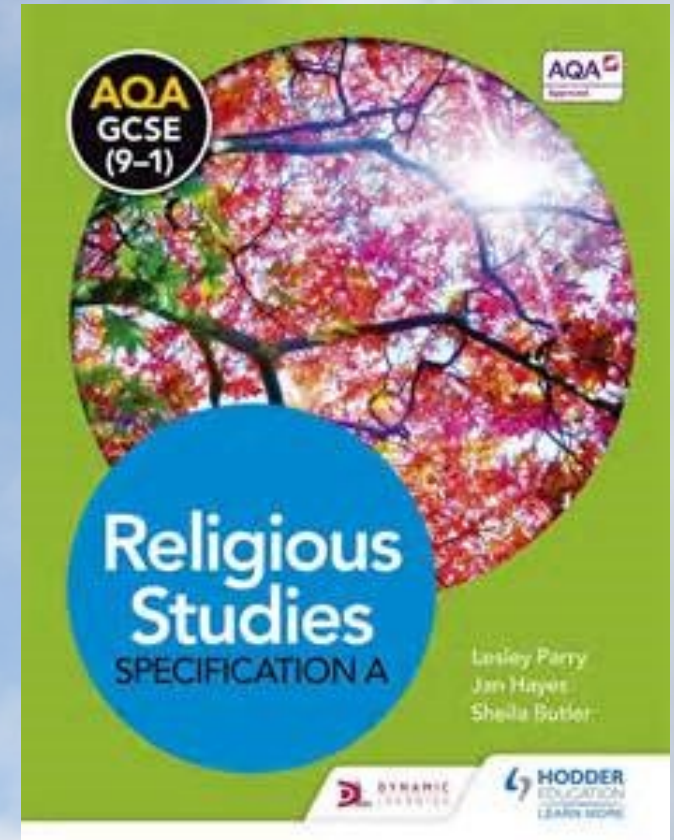
## The Course

- No coursework – just two exam papers at the end of Year 11.
- Paper 1: Religious beliefs and practices
- Paper 2: Thematic studies (Ethics)

During Y10, we look at the beliefs and practices in Christianity.

This covers everything from beliefs about the Trinity to the meaning of Christmas. After this we look at our first 2 themes: Relationships and Family & Religion and Life. These cover everything from gay marriage, contraception and divorce to abortion, euthanasia and animal testing.

In Y11 we look at beliefs and practices in Islam, then Themes E & F: Crime and Punishment & Social Justice.





## **Theme A: Relationships and Families**

This unit covers key issues like marriage and divorce. We also look at issues surrounding sex, including homosexuality and sex outside marriage. We also explore other issues such as polygamy.

## **Theme B: Religion and Life**

In this unit of work we study some of the big ethical issues. We look at different attitudes to issues surrounding life, including abortion, euthanasia and animal rights.

## **Theme E: Crime and Punishment**

As part of this theme we explore different attitudes to criminality, including why people commit crimes, and how people approach punishment. We look at big problems like the role of addiction in crime and the moral acceptability of capital punishment.

## **Theme F: Human Rights and Social Justice**

Our final theme looks at the biggest issues in society today. We cover topics like racism and gender equality, and look at the causes and responses to issues like homophobia and LGBTQ+ rights.