

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

Studying Religious Studies will enable students to gain knowledge and understanding of religions and beliefs. Students can develop their personal, social and cultural knowledge.

By undertaking this subject, students will be well prepared to study Religious Studies at Advanced level. Students can go on to have a variety of careers, for example in teaching, medicine, public service, advice work, counselling, journalism, sales and marketing companies, ministry, social work, charity organisations, youth work, community work, libraries and museums.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

There are nine units to choose from; this allows students to explore different areas of study in religion. Students will learn how to critically evaluate a number of different topics, consider the evidence and argue a case.

The specification aims to develop interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion and relate it not only locally, but to the wider world. Students will be able to explore religions and beliefs, build on their own spiritual and moral development, and contribute to their health and well-being.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Religious Studies combines well with history, philosophy, languages, psychology, the sciences and media studies. This is a unitised qualification and is offered as either a Full Course or a Short Course.

Through studying this specification, students will have the opportunity to consider questions relating to religions and beliefs, and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of what they have learned.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Students can develop various skills, for example:

- **Communication** – make oral and written summaries, and participate in discussions, debates and interviews;
- **Using ICT** – carry out secondary research online, present written reports and give presentations;
- **Self-Management** – plan work, set personal goals and targets, monitor, review and evaluate progress and improve learning, and effectively manage time;
- **Working with Others** – participate in discussions and learn through co-operation with others, for example in a class debate; and
- **Problem Solving** – identify and analyse relationships and patterns, propose justified explanations, reason, form opinions and justify views, analyse and assess multiple perspectives, and explore unfamiliar views without prejudice, for example different beliefs about God from different world religions.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

This specification is unitised, giving flexibility to students and teachers.

The qualification can be taken as either a Full Course or a Short Course. The Short Course students can be taught alongside students following the Full Course.

There are nine units to choose from, covering a wide range of religions and beliefs.



CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

CONTENT	CONTENT SUMMARY	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
Unit 1: The Christian Church through a Study of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church	Short Course: Students complete one unit from a choice of nine.	Short Course: One external written examination	Short Course: written examination worth 100 %
Unit 2: The Christian Church with a Focus on EITHER the Catholic Church OR the Protestant Church	Full Course: Students complete two units from a choice of nine.	1 hour 30 mins Full Course: Two external written examinations	Full Course: each written examination worth 50 %
Unit 3: The Revelation of God and the Christian Church	There are some prohibited unit combinations for Full Course students. Please see Section 1.5 of the specification for more details.	1 hour 30 mins each	
Unit 4: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Matthew			
Unit 5: Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Mark			
Unit 6: An Introduction to Christian Ethics			
Unit 7: An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion			
Unit 8: Islam			
Unit 9: Judaism			

SUPPORTING YOU

The following resources are available to support the specification:

- our Religious Studies microsite at www.ccea.org.uk and
- specimen assessment materials.

We also intend to provide:

- past papers;
- mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- planning frameworks;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers;
- a resource list; and
- exemplification of examination performance.

CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

Subject Officer with overall responsibility:

Donna Finlay
(028) 9026 1200 ext 2105
dfinlay@ccea.org.uk

Specification Support Officer:

Arlene Ashfield
(028) 9026 1200 ext 2291
aashfield@ccea.org.uk

SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT



For first teaching from September 2017
For first assessment in Summer 2018
For first award in Summer 2019

