

# GCSE Religious Studies

## Why study Religious Studies?

RS is a very diverse subject. The content explores deep philosophical and ethical questions and will challenge you to be open-minded about the beliefs and practices of people from a range of different cultural backgrounds. On the whole, the main reason that students choose to study RS is because they are personally interested in the issues we discuss and because they like a good debate. RS teaches the skills of evaluation and analysis.

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## What will I study?

RS is divided into two papers.

**Paper 1** explores the beliefs and practices of two world religions; Islam and Christianity. We investigate the nature of God, human freewill and ask questions such as whether extremism could ever be a legitimate religious expression.

**Paper 2** includes four themes. Firstly we explore questions of human sexuality, marriage and equality. Secondly, we investigate the origins of life looking into issues such as abortion and animal rights. The third theme explores crime, asking whether the death penalty is acceptable and the final theme, peace and conflict, investigates war and whether we should ever use nuclear weapons.

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## How will RS benefit me?

Learning about world religions as well as studying ethics is crucial in our diverse, multi-faith world. Understanding the customs of others not only makes us more tolerant, it can make us better equipped in any career which involves liaising with people on a local, national and an international scale. RS will also help you to develop important skills such as the ability to debate, analyse effectively and write a well-balanced argument. These skills set you up well for a range of careers from politics to law.



### ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework.

You will take two exams  
(each lasting 1 hour  
and 45 minutes)  
at the end of Year 11.