



# Religious Studies GCSE

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification/specification-at-a-glance](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification/specification-at-a-glance)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Head of Department
GCSE Religious Studies A	AQA	8062	Mrs Cleall

**Course Information** GCSE RS is about the everyday. We carefully consider what motivates people and why they behave the way they do in moral dilemmas and different life situations. We DEBATE and DISCUSS life's BIG QUESTIONS - where there is no right answer! Students learn to articulate themselves coherently, be critical and challenge the world around them.

**Skills/Aptitude Required** Students who take RS should:

- Be open minded
- Enjoy debates
- Like discussing issues
- Accept different views and challenge them!
- Be willing to develop literacy skills

**Next Steps**

- A-Level Religious Studies
- A-Level English Literature
- A-Level Sociology
- Law/Criminology
- Psychology

**Future Careers**

- Law
- Police
- Medical
- Teacher
- Youth Work
- Social Work
- Human Resources
- Armed Services

## The Course in Depth

**Year 9 Topics Covered** **Morality**  
What it means to be good and how we make moral decisions.

**Crime and Punishment**  
Why we punish people, death penalty, corporal punishment, prison, community service etc and concept of forgiveness and justice.

**Buddhist Beliefs**  
Key beliefs on suffering, enlightenment, karma, schools of Buddhism etc.

**Existence of God**  
Arguments for and against God's existence, religion vs science, revelation, miracles, evil and suffering.

**Year 10 Topics Covered** **Christian Beliefs**  
Key beliefs on God, nature of God, Jesus and salvation, death.

**War and Peace**  
Causes and consequences of war, weapons of mass destruction, pacifism, terrorism, holy war, protest, victims of war etc.

**Buddhist Practices**  
Worship, meditation, and festivals, Buddhist ethics of metta and karuna.

**Year 11 Topics Covered** **Christian Practices**  
Types of worship, sacraments, pilgrimage, festivals, role of the church.

**Religion and Life**  
Animal rights and abuses, environmental issues, abortion, euthanasia, death, origins of the universe, the value of life.

**Internal Assessment** At the end of every unit students will sit a test specific to the unit covered. These are always exam specific so students can build their confidence in their knowledge, and become used to the time constraints and exam conditions.

**External Assessment** There are two exams of 1 hour 45 min. Each is weighted as 50% of the GCSE. These are externally examined at the end of Year 11.  
Exam 1: Religious beliefs and practices  
Exam 2: Thematic Studies

*“Religious Education is probably the GCSE I’ve used most since leaving school....it was about the way in which different people live.”*

Freddie Flintoff MBE