

*Religious Studies GCSE*  
Curriculum



# *OCR GCSE Religious Studies J625*

## **Introduction**

Religious Studies is a subject that encourages students to think critically and reflectively about religion, belief, and human experience. The GCSE curriculum aims to provide students with a solid foundation in religious studies, enabling them to develop knowledge, understanding, and respect for different beliefs and worldviews.

Angel Walters, Religious Studies Teacher

### *Aims*

The religious Studies course aims to:

- To consolidate prior knowledge and experience as well as developing students' specific knowledge and understanding of a range of religious beliefs, practices, and teachings.
- To encourage students' critical thinking and analysis of religious issues.
- To foster respect for different religions and cultures.
- To develop students' skills in research, communication, and presentation.
- To prepare students for the GCSE Religious Studies examination.

### *What The Student Will Learn*

The GCSE Religious Studies course covers a range of topics, including:

### *Beliefs, Teachings & Practices*

Students are required to study two religions from: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism.



## *Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective*

The themes studied are:

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

Students are required to study this component from the perspective of one of the following religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Key religious beliefs, practices, and teachings and concepts.
- The significance of religion in different cultures and societies.
- Different religious perspectives on contemporary issues.
- The ability to analyse, think critically, and evaluate religious texts and arguments.

### *How We Teach the Course*

Teaching methods will vary to cater to different learning styles. These may include:

- Whole class teaching and presentations to present key concepts and ideas
- Small group participation to consolidate learning
- Group discussions and debates
- Research and project work
- Role-play and simulations
- Use of multimedia resources
- Visits to places of worship

Students will be encouraged to ask questions, share their ideas, and develop their own opinions.



## *Assessment*

Assessment will be based on the OCR GCSE Religious Studies examination, which consists of the following components:

- 2 x 1 hour written papers on the beliefs, teaching and practices of the 2 chosen religions
- 2 hour written paper on religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world

Students will receive regular feedback on their progress through classwork, homework, and mock examinations.

## *Additional Learning Opportunities*

To enhance learning and broaden horizons, students will be offered opportunities to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities, such as:

- Independent research and self-set projects
- Visits to places of worship and religious events
- Charity work and volunteering (age appropriate)

## *Evaluation and Review*

The curriculum will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the boards' defined curriculum. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents will be considered in the review process.

Updated August 2024

Next review: August 2025