

RELIGIOUS STUDIES Full Course GCSE (Core)

Contact: Mr L Shilling

Board: Pearson EDEXCEL



Religious Education at Key Stage 4 enables students to consider a range of religious and non-religious viewpoints surrounding ethical, philosophical and social issues. These issues are dealt with sensitively and in a way that enables students to explore and form their own opinions and attitudes. **There is no requirement for personal belief.** The subject develops the transferable critical thinking skills of reasoning, use of evidence and the evaluation of divergent viewpoints.

The course which consists of two related units - 'Religion and Ethics' and 'Religion, Peace and Conflict'. This has been chosen to complement the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

Paper 1 - Religion and Ethics

Christian Beliefs

A study of Christian beliefs about the nature of God, creation theories including scientific theories and Christian responses to them and the problem of suffering and evil.

Marriage and the Family;

A study of sexual relationships, homosexuality, contraception, cohabitation, sex outside marriage, the changing nature of family life and its importance and divorce and difficulties in family relationships. This unit also explores gender prejudice and discrimination in the UK and Christian attitudes towards the roles of men and women.

Living the Religious Life

An exploration of Christian worship, prayer, pilgrimage and an evaluation of the Church's role in local and global society including its work for charity and the place of evangelical work.

Matters of Life and Death.

A study of religious teachings about the origins and value of human life, the purpose of life, euthanasia, abortion, the afterlife and heaven and hell.

Paper 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict

Muslim Beliefs

A study of Muslim beliefs about the nature of God and prophethood, the importance of angels and the exploration of the meaning of Islam as peace and submission. The problem of suffering and evil and Islamic responses to it.

Crime and Punishment:

Looking at the causes of crime, theories of punishment, the importance of justice, capital punishment, laws related to drugs and alcohol, forgiveness and reconciliation, arguments about the use of torture and human rights

Living the Religious Life

An exploration of the five pillars of Islam, Muslim festivals, holy books and the concept of Jihad.

Peace and Conflict:

Including causes of war, just war theories, examples of conflicts of the 21st Century, Islamic teachings on war and peace, issues surrounding conflict including terrorism

The Examination

The final assessment for this selection does not include coursework; therefore, the final exams would be: Two Final Exam Papers – each of 1 hour 45 minutes.