

GCSE Religious Studies



The Course

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies (Route B) focuses in depth on the Catholic faith through the exploration of beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression within Catholicism. Students will broaden their understanding of religion by studying the beliefs and practices of Judaism whilst also studying the contemporary ethical issues of evil and suffering, the origin of life, the afterlife and crime and punishment through Catholic, religious and non-religious perspectives.

The study of Catholicism will explore what Catholics believe, why they believe this and how this is expressed through art, music or architecture. The themes of study are:

Foundational Catholic Theology

- Origins and Meanings
- Good and Evil

Applied Catholic Theology

- Life and Death
- Sin and Forgiveness

Judaism

- Jewish beliefs & teachings
- Jewish Practices

Why study RS?

Anyone with an interest in life, culture and the nature of existence will enjoy RS. Religious Studies not only explores the faith of our school and community it is also a study of society, human history, psychology and anthropology. Through the study of religion students will get to explore the big questions in life, consider their own faith and ponder what the future holds for life on earth.

Skills Required

As an essay based subject, the ability to research concepts, express thoughts coherently and formulate an argument are both essential and those that will be developed over the course.

The nature of Religious Studies also requires the skills of empathy, the ability to consider abstract concepts and approach sensitive topics in a mature manner.

Assessment

There are three written exams; the two Catholic papers last 90 minutes each with the Judaism exam being 60 minutes.

During the course, there will be numerous opportunities to hone the skills necessary to succeed at GCSE through Pre-Public Examinations.

How can I use this course after Year 11 in the future?

Religious Studies is recognised as a traditional GCSE that builds study skills that promote academic rigour whilst also developing 'soft skills' such as empathy, compassion and an understanding of many issues and concerns that we will all face at some point in our lives. As such, RS lends itself to many varied careers paths from A level and university preparation to social work, medicine, the armed forces, journalism, law, teaching, media, the civil service and religious life.

If I want to know more I should ask:

Please contact any member of the RE department:

Mr Gray - Head of REPD Faculty gray.p@st-thomas-more.net

Mr Lomas – 2nd in Faculty lomas.a@st-thomas-more.net

Miss O'Keefe – 3rd in Faculty o'keefe.t@st-thomas-more.net

Mrs M Sherratt Sherratt.m@st-thomas-more.net