Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE – Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: Religious Studies A 8062

What is GCSE Religious Studies all about?

This GCSE gives you the opportunity to study and consider some of the major religious beliefs and practices in addition to topical moral and philosophical issues in modern life. You will begin to understand how and why religious faith affects a person's moral choices and allows you to discuss questions about the meaning and purpose of life. This qualification is well regarded and develops excellent academic skills such as the ability to interpret and evaluate information and how to write in an extended style. The course is fully accessible to those with or without a religious faith.

Course Structure:

Two units are studied:

Component 1: The study of 2 major religions: their beliefs, teachings and practices
Component 2: Thematic Studies: a choice of 4 from the list below.
Theme A: Relationships and families.
Theme B: Religion and life.
Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.
Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

How will I be assessed?

- 2 written examinations taken in the Summer term of year 11
- Each examination 105 minutes in length.

What could I do next with GCSE Religious Studies.

A GCSE in Religious Studies is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment. A good grade at GCSE will help you progress to an AS or A level in Philosophy. Religious Studies is viewed very positively by many businesses and vocations as it develops important skills and demonstrates that you are aware of current topical issues.

Furthermore as you enter the world of work, you will be expected to work alongside people with different beliefs than your own. Religious Studies will teach the skills and understanding needed to work with people of all faiths and cultures. These skills are vitally important in all careers especially professions such as the police, retail, teaching, the law, the caring professions and the armed forces, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

This qualification will enable you to ask questions and make sense of the increasingly changing religious and cultural aspects of the modern society. As such it will prepare you to take your place in the global workplace.