

Shoeburyness High School

Year 9 Subject Information

GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

The examination board is AQA, and we study the **Religious Studies A** course.

What will I study on this course?

- **Paper 1:** beliefs and practices Buddhist and Christian beliefs and practices.
- **Paper 2:** thematic studies
 - **Theme A:** Family and relationships
 - **Theme B:** Life issues
 - **Theme D:** War and peace
 - **Theme E:** crime and punishment.



Examinations

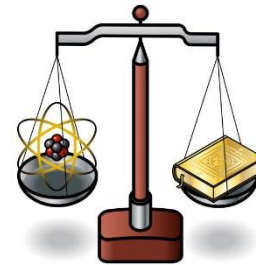
- You will sit **TWO** 1 hour and 45-minute examinations at the end of year 11.
- You will use philosophical and ethical skills including explanation, application, analysis, and evaluation.
- There is no higher or foundation tiers in Religious Studies.
- It is 100% exam. There is **NO** coursework.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

Why study GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies?

- Understanding of the world around you.
- Consideration of ethical issues that impact on our lives such as life issues and medical ethics.
- Develop skills in presenting a well-reasoned argument, analysis, and evaluation.
- Content of Religious and Thematic Studies touches on and relates to many different careers.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies gives you a strong foundation for A Level study in:

- Ethics, Philosophy and Religion (EPR)
- Politics
- Law
- History
- Geography
- Sociology
- Psychology



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

Paper 1: beliefs and practices

- In **paper 1** you will study the beliefs and practices of **two** different religions.
- The religions you will study is **Christianity** and **Buddhism**.

The content you will cover within these religions includes:

- Existence of the universe
- Human personality and destiny
- The problem of evil and suffering
- Good moral conduct
- Worship
- Festivals and celebrations
- Pilgrimage
- Influence and role of religion in the modern world



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

Paper 2: thematic studies

- In **paper 2** you will study FOUR philosophical and ethical themes considering the issues raised by these, and their impact and influence on the modern world.
- Students may draw upon Christianity, Buddhism as well as other religious worldviews such as Islam and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

The content you will cover within thematic studies is:

- **Theme A:** Family and relationships including study of marriage, divorce, cohabitation gender roles and discrimination.
- **Theme B:** Life issues including abortion, euthanasia, animal rights and use and abuse of the environment.
- **Theme D:** War and peace including war, weapons of mass destruction and pacifism
- **Theme E:** crime and punishment including aims of punishment, causes of crime, types of crime, treatment of criminals and corporeal and capital punishment.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

What will the examinations look like?

- The examinations are structured the same as you have been doing in Year 7-9 Religious Studies.
- There is a total of **96 marks** per paper, plus **6 marks** for spelling, punctuation, and grammar (**SPaG**).

Questions

- Each religion and theme have a **common structure** of questions of **1,2,4, 5 and 12 marks**.
- Each component exam is worth **50%** of the final GCSE grade.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

University progression

Several of our A level students have recently gone on to study:

- Philosophy
- Law
- History
- English
- Sociology
- Psychology

Career progression

- Study of GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies will assist with any profession that requires people skills or working with the public such as police, medical profession, care work, PR etc.
- You are developing knowledge about the wider world around you as well as ethical and philosophical issues in the world around you.
- You will develop problem solving skills, giving a sustained argument, analysis and evaluation among other skills covered on this course. Such skills are useful for any future career you may pursue.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

What do current year 10 Religious Studies students say?

'GCSE Religious Studies gives me insight into different aspects of life that I don't experience in my own life'.

Summer, Year 10 student

'GCSE Religious Studies needs to be something you want to do. I have worked hard, and it has paid off in my assessment grades'.

Hannah, Year 10 student

'I find GCSE Religious Studies interesting and enjoyable'.

Holly, Zara, and Jess, Year 10 students

'All of the content in Religious Studies links to other topics on the course which means you are constantly testing and developing your knowledge'.

Izzy, Year 10 student

'I chose GCSE Religious Studies because I am religious myself and it enables me to apply my own religious beliefs and understand the beliefs of others'.

Monir
Year 10 student

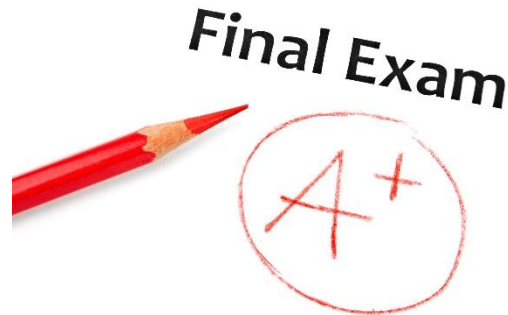


GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

Results in GCSE Religious Studies

In summer 2023, **87.8%** of students studying GCSE Religious Studies achieved a **Grade 4+**, **81.6%** of students achieved **Grade 5+**, **42.9%** of students achieving a **Grade 7-9**.

Both results in Religious Studies were above national average with **83%** of students nationally achieve **Grade 4+** and **34%** of students nationally achieving a **Grade 7-9**.



GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies

Contact information

If you have any further questions about studying GCSE Religious and Thematic Studies or wish to enquire about your suitability for this course, contact details can be found below:

- **Head of Religious Studies: Miss J Boxall**
jboxall@shoeburyness.secat.co.uk
- **Head of Faculty: Mrs V Gray**
vgray@shoeburyness.secat.co.uk

