

GCSE Religious Studies

Why is Religious Studies GCSE unique?

Religious Studies is a subject that is multi-disciplinary which means it links to other subjects, however it is unique as it gives an opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of three key areas:

1. **Religion** (The history, beliefs and practises of Christianity and Buddhism)
2. **Philosophy** (The ultimate questions like 'Why are we here?' and 'What happens after death?')
3. **Ethics** (Moral dilemmas such as 'Is war ever justifiable?' and 'How should we treat criminals?')

Does GCSE Religious Studies help students to prepare for A-levels?

GCSE RS is looked on favourably as a subject which gives a foundation to go on to study many other subjects. For example; Law, Philosophy, Sociology and Psychology, as well as Religious Studies itself. It is academically rigorous and requires a high level of written skills such as note taking, referencing and evaluation.

Does Religious Studies GCSE really help in terms of careers?

GCSE RS is a good subject to consider if you are thinking of any career which requires working with other people, especially when it involves differences of opinion. For example, law, medicine, social work, public services and education.

What skills does Religious Studies GCSE help to develop?

As with many subjects, RS promotes personal development skills that are useful beyond GCSE. Being able to express an opinion, listen to others and form logical arguments are transferable skills. RS is particularly helpful in developing critical thinking, reasoning, written and verbal communication, using evidence and evaluating arguments and beliefs.

Do I have to believe in God to take RS?

Not at all. This is an academic study of religion & beliefs. Your own beliefs do not reflect your ability to be successful.

Aren't all answers 'right' in RS?

No. There is a lot to learn in the GCSE that you can answer correctly/incorrectly. You have to learn facts, quotations, teachings and beliefs that must be accurate.

Is Religious Studies GCSE difficult and how do I know if I am suited to the subject?

It is a challenge academically and does ask students to think deeply about their world. There are no tiers and all students will complete the same exam papers. We will develop exam skills throughout the course so that you are ready. Ultimately, if you are interested in the big questions in life, if you care about the ethical questions that individuals and communities face and if you are curious about the religious beliefs and practises that have survived for thousands of years then this is the subject for you!

Why do people love Religious Studies?

For many of us this subject has the greatest and most important questions, art, books, stories, music, history, places, people and experiences!