

Optional: Religious Studies (AQA 8062)

The course is assessed at the end of two years through two examination papers each of duration 1 hour 45 minutes. Each paper contributes 50% towards the overall qualification, and 50% of the marks for the two papers is given for evaluative answers.

Study of religions (Paper 1): Students will answer questions on the beliefs and practices of **Christianity** and **Buddhism**.

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes (Paper 2): Students will consider different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of different perspectives on the issues. Students will study the four themes outlined below and as well as considering each topic from a secular perspective they will be able to choose the religion which interests them the most and demonstrate understanding of the application of that religion to the chosen topic.

The themes that will be studied are:

- Religion, relationships and family.
- Religion and Life, focussing on the origins of life on earth, environmental issues, euthanasia, abortion and beliefs in life after death.
- Religion, peace and conflict, focussing on religious responses to war, violence, terrorism and pacifism.
- Religion, crime and punishment, focussing on the causes of crime, the aims of punishment, forgiveness and the death penalty.

If you enjoy discussing topics of philosophical, ethical, spiritual and religious significance then you should consider taking this subject. Religious Studies is taught through a wide variety of methods, with an emphasis on active and creative learning and discussion.