



AQA Religious Studies: short course (8061)

What will you study?

Study of Religions

Christianity: Students study some of the beliefs and teachings found within Christianity. This includes understanding what Christians believe about the nature of God and responses to the problem of evil. The significance of Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection, and the role of Jesus in salvation is also studied.

Buddhism: As a second comparative religion, students study some of the beliefs and teachings found within Buddhism. This includes the life of the Buddha, and the Buddha's key teachings including the Three Marks of Existence and the Four Noble Truths. Additionally, there is a study of different branches of Buddhism and Buddhist ethics.

Study of Themes

Religion, relationships and families: In this unit, students consider issues such as marriage and divorce, the nature and purpose of families, sexuality and relationships before and outside of marriage, contraception, gender equality, and gender prejudice and discrimination. The views of Christians and Buddhists on these issues are considered as well.

Religion, Peace and Conflict: This unit addresses questions about the uses of violence, protest, terrorism, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. It examines the different reasons for war, holy war and just war theory. It also considers concepts such as reconciliation, pacifism, justice and forgiveness. The views of Christians and Buddhists on these issues are considered as well.

How will you be assessed?

There is one exam paper, which is 1 hour 45 minutes long and is taken towards the end of Year 10. The paper includes four sections; one each on the four topics studied. Students are awarded a grade from 1-9.

Note: the short course covers half of the content of the full GCSE and is therefore the equivalent to half of a GCSE. Students can then continue studying for the full GCSE which is taken in Year 11.