

**Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)**

**Awarding Body: AQA Religious Studies A**

**Further information available from: Miss Roach**

Religious Studies GCSE begins by investigating the religious teachings and practices of Christianity and Judaism. The course then explores philosophical and ethical issues impacting the world today. It considers issues of morality, right and wrong. For example; *What constitutes a good family? Should euthanasia be legalised in the UK? Is it ever acceptable to go to war? Is the death penalty ethical?*

**Course overview:**

**Component 1. The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.**

Religions: Christianity and Judaism.

Assessment: One exam, 1 hour 45 minutes. 50%

**Component 2. Thematic studies. The choice of 4 philosophical and ethical themes out of 6.**

Themes:           A. Relationship and families  
                      B. Religion and life  
                      D. Peace and conflict  
                      E. Crime and Punishment

Assessment: One exam, 1 hour 45 minutes. 50%

**Religious Studies and careers**

The study of religions, philosophy and ethics develops key skills required in higher education and a broad range of careers. In fact Philosophy forms one of the most popular courses at Oxford and Cambridge - PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). The GCSE course ensures students adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to fundamental questions. Students will learn to articulate their own beliefs as well as respecting those of others. Students will cultivate the compassion and empathy needed for careers in medicine, the tolerance and understanding essential for roles in policing and the analytical skills desired in law. Religious Studies closes no doors in careers, it only opens them.