

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

For both a short GCSE and a full GCSE, candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11. Goldington Academy will offer either the short GCSE course or the full GCSE course.

UNITS

Religious Studies Short Course

Written Paper – 1hr 45 min – 100% of GCSE Short Course

UNIT 1: The Study of Religions: Beliefs and Teachings

Students will study the beliefs and teachings of Christianity and Islam.

UNIT 2: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies

- Relationships and Families
- Religion, Peace and Conflict

Religious Studies Full Course

UNIT 1: The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

Written Paper – 1hr 45 min – 50% of GCSE

Students will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.

UNIT 2: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies Themes

Written Paper – 1hr 45 min – 50% of GCSE

- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Visit to religious buildings in London – London Central Mosque and St Paul's Cathedral.
- Visiting speakers linked to ethical studies.

SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religion is a part of everyday life. Students will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will understand how religion, religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions influence individuals, communities and societies. Religious Studies enables students to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faith and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables students to combat prejudice. It has an important role in preparing students for adult life, employment and lifelong learning.

What will my child gain from religious studies?

Religious Studies is an academic subject, in which all students are given the opportunity to develop as thinkers with the ability to explain and critically analyse different religious beliefs. Students will be able to reflect on and promote their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. It is not about making a person 'religious'; it is about enabling students to think for themselves. It is about people, their lives and the issues they will face when they leave school and go into the multi-ethnic, multi-faith society which is the UK.

Where will religious studies take my child?

Universities all accept Religious Studies, welcoming the evidence that an applicant is able to approach issues in a clear and open minded manner. Prospective employers appreciate the emphasis on critical thinking, especially in careers that require an understanding of others and the ability to relate to people of different backgrounds. Religious Studies can be beneficial to many different careers, ranging from the arts to medicine.

Further reading/ suggested revision materials:

AQA Religious Studies Specification A
AQA Religious Studies A Islam
AQA Religious Studies A Christianity

For further information, please contact:

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