

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

Frequently Asked Questions

Which exam board do you use?

A: Students who choose the RPE GCSE will study the [OCR J625 Religious Studies](#) course.

Q: What will I learn on this course?

The course is split into two parts covering a range of topics

One half is the study of religions, and you will study Christianity and Islam, covering a range of beliefs and teachings, as well as religious practices

The other half is philosophical and ethical themes, and looks at key issues in the world today, and how both religious and non-religious viewpoints respond. This includes four topics, Relationships and families, Peace and conflict, Existence of God, and Dialogue between and within religious and non-religious views.

If you would like to look at the content in more detail there is a copy of the course specification available via the [CATalogue](#), and you can also find sample resources used by Y10 and Y11 in the same folder.

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: The course is assessed solely by exams.

You will sit a 1 hour exam for each religion, so one on Christianity and one on Islam, and a 2 hour exam covering the four themes.

Each exam contains a mix of questions, worth either 3 marks, 6 marks or 15 marks.

3-mark questions are usually short, and checking for key bits of knowledge

6-mark questions require knowledge of two different views on a topic, and the ability to show why these views are held

15-mark questions take the form of a statement to discuss, and the answer needs to explore different responses to the question, as well as evaluate which side has the strongest argument

Sample assessments are available to view on the [course website](#).

Q: How many mock exams would there be?

A: Formal assessments are used throughout the course to assess each pupil's progress and to provide feedback to pupils on areas of strength or areas for improvement prior to the final exam.

At the end of each topic, there will be an end-of-topic test. This will contain a mix of the different exam question styles.

At the end of Year 10, there will be an exam, taken under formal exam conditions, and in Year 11, there will be a mock exam, based around a full exam paper. Both of these internal exams will include a range of topics that have been studied up to that point.

Results from all these assessments are used, in conjunction with the teacher assessment from classwork and homework, to inform a projected grade to be included in Sixth Form applications.

Q: Which textbooks/revision guides are used?

A: We are currently using *OCR GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies* textbook, written by Lorraine Abbott and Steve Clarke, published by Hodder Education. There are copies of this in school for students to access.

Early in the course, students are invited to purchase a range of revision materials, including *Knowledge Quiz* books written by Dawn Cox, a revision guide produced internally, and the *My Revision Notes* series book for the course, written as a companion for the textbook.

Students will also be guided to a range of different online revision resources such as Seneca Learning, and Quizlet, throughout the course to allow them to consolidate their knowledge.

Q: Do you have to be religious to study this subject?

A: There is no requirement to be religious and being open to the ideas of different views is important, in order to do well in the subject. The course casts a critical eye over a range of views, but the preparation of RPE lessons both at Primary school and at Cambourne Village College will prepare students to study this course

Q: How do I catch up if I miss a lesson?

A: All of the resources for lessons will be available via the CATalogue to allow students to catch up on any missed work. Teachers are happy to provide guidance in completing any missed work.

Q: How can I extend my learning?

A: A general knowledge of current affairs is beneficial, as many of the topics covered in the Philosophical and Ethical Themes part of the course. Being engaged by reading news articles or watching news broadcasts will allow students to understand the changing nature of the topics.

The RPE department have a library of books that are available for students to loan and interested students can ask for recommendations that would be of interest to them.