



Welcome to GCSE Religious Studies at Harris Church of England Academy!

Dear Parent and student,

We are thrilled to introduce you to the AQA GCSE Religious Studies course, a vibrant and dynamic subject that delves into the fascinating realms of people, religion, culture, morality, philosophy, and ethics. This course is not just about learning facts; it's an invitation for students to embark on a journey of understanding that encourages empathy, critical thinking, and spirited debate.

Religious Studies is an exciting opportunity for students to explore the complexities of the world around them and discover their own place within it. The Russell Group of top universities recognises that A Level Religious Studies provides excellent preparation for higher education, equipping students with robust analytical and essay-writing skills. The skills cultivated through this course are invaluable in various professions, including Medicine, Law, and Economics, where empathy and tolerance are essential.

Completing a GCSE in Religious Studies opens doors to a multitude of career paths in politics, the civil service, journalism, media, and the charity sector. The transferrable skills gained from this subject—such as critical thinking, effective communication, decision-making, collaboration, and conflict resolution—are highly sought after in today's job market.

At Harris Church of England Academy, all students will engage with the AQA Religious Studies A course, which covers a rich and diverse curriculum. The key skills and expectations for the course include:

- **Knowledge and Understanding:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of two major religions, Christianity and Judaism, and explore key sources of wisdom and authority, including scripture and sacred texts.
- **Influence of Religion:** Students will examine how religion impacts individuals, communities, and societies, fostering a deeper appreciation of diverse perspectives.
- **Analytical Skills:** Students will apply their knowledge to analyse questions related to religious beliefs and values, constructing well-informed and balanced arguments.

Throughout the course, students will explore both commonalities and differences within religious traditions, enhancing their understanding of how beliefs and teachings are interpreted and expressed.

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Course Structure

The GCSE course is structured around the following key areas:

1. **Christian Beliefs and Practises**
2. **Judaism Beliefs and Practises**
3. **Theme A: Relationships and Families**
4. **Theme B: Religion and Life**
5. **Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment**
6. **Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice**

Recommended Study and Revision Guides

To support your child's learning, we recommend the following resources:

- **Hodder Education:** "Religious Studies: Specification A – AQA GCSE"
- **CGP:** GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide

Useful Websites

- request.org.uk: Highlights key Christian teachings.
- trutube.co.uk: Provides important teachings of major religions.
- BBC Bitesize: Select AQA Religious Studies for additional resources.

We are excited to embark on this educational journey with your child, fostering their curiosity about the world and nurturing their ability to engage thoughtfully with diverse beliefs and values. Thank you for your support!

Warm regards,

The RS team



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Registered Office: St James' Church of England Academy, Barbridge Road, Bulkington, Bedworth, CV12 9PF

