



# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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The course is divided into two main units. At GCSE, pupils are required to study Christianity and one other religion, at Cefn Saeson we study Judaism. Pupils will also look at non-religious viewpoints on all topics.

The knowledge and understanding acquired from these units is then applied to the philosophical and ethical units.

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## Unit 1 Religious & Philosophical Themes

### Life and Death

The World: origins of the world, creation stories, scientific views including Big Bang and Evolution, environmental responsibility, stewardship and the work of charities.

The origin and value of human life: sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia and organ donation.

Beliefs about death and the afterlife: soul, heaven & hell, judgement and funerals.

### Good and Evil

Crime and punishment: morality, crime, types of punishment, prison reform, chaplains and the death penalty.

Forgiveness: Peace and conflict, pacifism, conscientious objectors and forgiveness.

Good, evil and suffering: original sin, philosophical challenges to belief in God and the purpose of suffering.

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## Unit 2 Religion and Ethical Themes beliefs,

### Relationships

Relationships: Family, cohabitation, interfaith marriage, marriage ceremonies and symbolism, adultery, divorce, annulment and remarriage.

Sexual relationships: nature and purpose of sex, contraception and same sex relationships.

Issues of equality roles of men and women in worship and authority.

### Human Rights

Human rights and social justice: dignity of human life, human rights, personal conviction, conflict with authority, censorship, freedom of religious expression and extremism.

Prejudice and discrimination: beliefs, teaching and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination and racism.

Issues of wealth and poverty: ethical consideration about the acquisition of wealth and the work of religious charities to alleviate poverty.

## Exam

### Assessment Criteria:

There is no coursework, meaning that RS is 100% exam based.

Pupils sit **two** exams, which are both 2 hours each.

Unit 1 - end of year 10

Unit 2 - end of year 11

Each exam is broken down into the four units of study, and again into four types of questions:

2 Marks - Key Definitions

5 Marks - Describe

8 Marks - Explain

15 Marks - Evaluate

## Staff

Ms Williams is the Head of Department for Religious Studies and Ms Morris is a subject specialist for Religious Studies.

Exam classes will be taught by either Ms Williams or Ms Morris

Hi



## Careers

### How Religious Studies will help you in the future

Aside from the fact that you will have developed a knowledge and understanding of differing beliefs, teachings and practices, Religious Studies also helps you to develop a number of skills including:

- \*Empathy
- \*The ability to evaluate
- \*How do demonstrate your knowledge and understanding
- \*The ability to construct an argument (to name a few!)

### Future Careers

Essentially, Religious Studies can help you with any career in which you have to have contact with people!

Air Cabin Crew

Chef

Human Resources

Journalist

Law

Medicine (Dr, Nurse, Health Visitor, Physiotherapist, Care etc)

Police

Social Worker

Teacher

Teaching Assistant



## “VIEWS OF CURRENT GCSE STUDENTS”

“Religious Studies gives you an understanding about other religions and about other people opinions”

“Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to learn about different views in the world. It allows you to express your opinion and develop your debating skills. It is extremely interesting and gives you an open mind”

“Religious Studies is brilliant at GCSE because you learn how to discuss and learn about other cultures. Many universities and colleges look for this GCSE”

“Religious Studies helps you understand other people. It is an important qualification to have to enable you to succeed in life”

“Religious Studies helps you understand what other people believe and how other people live”



Video

<https://youtu.be/3p5psxKn1CY>

