

Religious Studies

**What is being studied this year:**

**Thematic Studies:** Pupils will study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments relating to the issues and their impact and influence in the modern world.

**September – November 2018: Christian Practices**

* Christian worship, including characteristics of liturgical and non-liturgical worship, prayer and sacraments
* Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona and Christian festivals: Christmas and Easter
* The role of the Church locally and worldwide, including the role of mission and evangelism, Church growth and responses to world poverty.

**November – December 2018: Theme D – Religion, Peace and Conflict**

* Religion, violence, terrorism and war, including pacifism, just war, jihad and holy war
* Religion and belief in 21st Century conflict, including religion as a cause of war, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction
* Pupils must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on violence, weapons of mass destruction, and pacifism

**January – February 2019: Theme B – Religion and Life**

* The origins and value of the universe, including religious and scientific teachings about the origins of the universe, the value of the world, the use and abuse of animals and environment
* The origins and values of human life, including religious and scientific teachings about the origins of human life, sanctity of life and quality of life, abortion, euthanasia and beliefs about death and an afterlife
* Pupils must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation

Pupils will continue to practise exam technique to be able to answer the full range of exam questions.

**Exam Board Details:**

Pupils are studying **AQA** Religious Studies Specification A (9-1 GCSE).

**Monday 13 May 2019 (PM):** Paper 1 – The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Islam)

**Monday 20 May 2019 (AM):** Paper 2 – Thematic Studies (Theme A: Relationships and Families, Theme B: Religion and Life, Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict, Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment)

**What Can You Do To Support Your Child?**

Please ensure your child continues to **complete all their class and home work to the very best of their ability**, all work completed in class forms the basis of their revision notes.

We will shortly be commencing **revision sessions** for the mock examination. **Please encourage your child to attend these sessions** but also undertake **revision of their own at home**. In Religious Studies, revision should focus on key words and their definitions, understanding of key concepts, beliefs and teachings from Christianity and Islam, including quotes, and the range of viewpoints (including those of contemporary British Society) needed for the Themes Units.

Successful revision techniques our pupils use include producing key words ‘flip cards’, recording key topic and concept information on index cards, producing mind maps to explore a concept, and undertaking practice questions. These, and other techniques your child finds successful, can be used to revise for the mock and final examinations.

The mock examination, on **5 November 2018 at 11am** (1hr 45mins), will examine the following units:

* Islam: Beliefs and Teachings
* Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings
* Theme A: Relationships and Families
* Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

Remaining revision sessions for the mock examination are as follows:

* Friday 12 October: Islamic Beliefs (from 15.15pm)
* Tuesday 16 October: Christian beliefs (lunchtime session—bring food)
* Wednesday 17 October: Islamic beliefs part 2 (from 15.15pm)
* Tuesday 30 October: Relationships & Families (lunchtime session—bring food)
* Friday 02 November: Religion, Crime & Punishment (from 15.15pm)

You can purchase an **Oxford University Press revision guide** for this specification through the school for **£6.00** (RRP £9.99), a letter has been sent to all Year 11 parents. This guide was chosen in consultation with pupils and teachers. An alternative revision guide which covers the same topics for this specification has been produced by CGP, which can be purchased as an alternative if your child prefers. Please see the following website for details: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/books_gcse_rs.book_RAR41>

From January 2019 a regular programme of revision sessions will be provided by the Religious Studies department, until then there will be regular catch up sessions run by teachers during break and lunchtimes. A revision planner will also be provided to guide pupils in weekly revision topics and tasks. Once all units have been completed revision will also take place during timetabled lessons.

At present there are no websites we recommend for revision, but we do encourage you to discuss current affairs with your child as contemporary British viewpoints are required for the exam and developing skills in critical evaluation and analysis.

You can follow the Religious Studies department on Twitter: @CamsHillRE, where we will share useful links to news stories, information and revision.