

**Exam Board:** AQA  
**Qualification:** 8062 Religious Studies A  
**Assessment Information:** 2 exams, each 1 hour 45 minutes  
[Link to official specification](#)

**Department Information:**  
We follow the AQA A exam board at GCSE. The GCSE is split into Religions and Thematic Studies. The two religions we have chosen to study are Christianity and Buddhism. The Thematic studies are very interesting and cover philosophical and ethical themes, these are: Crime and Punishment, Peace and conflict, Human rights and social justice, and Religion and Life covering ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and animal testing. This is an exciting options subject that allows students to deepen their knowledge both of religion and worldwide events and issues.

**ACHIEVE in the curriculum:**  
*Briefly outline how the course helps develop ACHIEVE skills (doesn't have to be all, but all that are relevant to your subject)*

**Ambition** – this year focuses on developing written exam skills and producing high quality essays.

**Integrity** – the course focuses on sensitive topics such as war, abortion, euthanasia and allows pupils to develop their own opinions whilst being mindful of those around them.

**Versatility** – being able to empathise with different perspectives and beliefs.

**Curriculum Aims & Intent:**

*Provide an overview of the course content and its core aims and intent, what learners will know and understand at the end of the course etc.*

Students should be aware of different religious perspectives on the issues studied within and / or between religious and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism. Students must also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues raised, and their impact and influence on the modern world. Students will be expected to show their understanding of religion through the application of teachings from religion and beliefs. They will also be expected to make specific references to sources of wisdom and authority including scripture and/or sacred texts. They may refer to any relevant religious text such as the Pali Canon, the sermons of the Buddha, the Bible, Qur'an and Hadith, the Torah etc. Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding that: the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian the religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse. Students may draw upon Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as other religions and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism. At Furze Platt the four chosen themes pupils will apply this to are: Religion and Life, Peace and Conflict, Crime and Punishment, and Human Rights and Social Justice.

**Resources:**

<https://kerboodle.com>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>  
<https://www.gcsepod.com/>  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide. ISBN-13: 9780198422853. ISBN-10: 0198422857.

GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Buddhism. ISBN-13: 9780198370321. ISBN-10: 0198370326.

GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Christianity. ISBN-13: 9780198370338. ISBN-10: 0198370334.

**How we keep parents informed:**

Year 10 - Progress reports are published 4 times per year, in October, November, March and July, with a face-to-face parents' evening in March.

**How parents can help their child:**

Supporting with development of writing – practice exam questions must be in full sentences and paragraphs, there are marks awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar in each exam paper.

As we progress through the year encouraging and supporting your child to complete timed practice exam questions, they can speak to their teacher if they are unsure of the timing.

Completing detailed revision notes at the end of each topic that will be ready to use when they are sitting the year 11 exams.

**What we study and when:**

Term	Unit, Topic Or Summary Of Work Covered	Knowledge, Understanding & Skills Developed	ACHIEVE / Personal Development Focus	How The Work Is Assessed	Careers Links
1	Religion and Life	<u>Content:</u> Origin of the universe and human life, the environment, animal rights, abortion, euthanasia and the afterlife <u>Skills:</u> understanding the structure of the 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark exam question and beginning to practice these with support	Integrity and empathy surrounding complex and sensitive topics. Versatility throughout the year when looking at different religious beliefs and applying them to thematic studies.	Practice exam questions set for home learning which are marked and recorded. An end of unit test where students are walked through the test with support for each question	Religion and life – developing an understanding of medical ethics and the issues raised here.  Crime and punishment - Prison and rehabilitation roles. Chaplains as part of Crime and Punishment and their roles with prisons.
2	Crime and Punishment	<u>Content:</u> Causes of crime, views of different types of crime, three aims of punishment (reformation, retribution and deterrence), prison, community service, corporal punishment, the death penalty and forgiveness <u>Skills:</u> Continuation of developing knowledge of the different exam structures.	Ambition and endurance as support is removed for end of unit assessment causing pupils to become more independent.	Combination of practice exam questions at home and in lesson. End of unit test in timed conditions	
3	Human Rights and Social Justice	<u>Content:</u> Prejudice and discrimination, issues of equality, freedom of religion, social justice, racism, sexism, homophobia, disability discrimination <u>Skills:</u> Completing timed exam questions in lessons with the use of plans and structure support	Integrity when studying types of discrimination	Timed exam questions in lesson.	

4	Human Rights and Social Justice Peace and Conflict	<p><u>Content</u> Human Rights and Justice: Positive discrimination, wealth and poverty, exploitation of the poor</p> <p>Content Peace and Conflict: Peace &amp; justice, protests, terrorism, reasons for war, just war theory</p> <p><u>Skills</u>: Completing timed exam questions in lessons with plans and structure support</p>	Integrity and empathy when looking at poverty and the exploitation of the poor.	Timed exam questions in lesson. End of unit Human Rights and Social Justice Test	Peace and conflict – other work roles people may have that does not involve violence in a war.
5	Peace and Conflict	<p><u>Content</u>: Holy War, peace making and pacifism, nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and religious responses to victims of war</p> <p><u>Skills</u>: Completing timed exam questions in lessons with plans</p>	Ambition and endurance as pupils start to complete exam questions with less support in lesson.	Timed exam questions in lesson. End of unit test on Peace and Conflict.	
6	Christianity Beliefs and Teachings	<p><u>Content</u>: The nature of God, the Trinity, different Christian beliefs about creation, Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, the afterlife, judgement and heaven and hell</p> <p><u>Skills</u>: Completing timed exam questions in lesson with plans</p>	Ambition as students start to build more depth to their knowledge of tricky Christian concepts.	Timed exam questions in lesson.	