

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:

Ambition – this year focuses on developing written exam skills and producing high quality essays, in timed conditions and without the use of plans for support.
Versatility – being able to understand complex religious beliefs, and exploring the differences between Christianity and Buddhism.

Curriculum Aims & Intent:

Students should be aware that Buddhism is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today and that the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity. This knowledge may be applied throughout the assessment of the specified content.

Students should study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Buddhism and Christianity, including reference to scripture and/or sacred texts where appropriate.

By gaining more in depth of knowledge of the various Buddhist and Christian beliefs, this will in turn support pupils to extend their knowledge of the content learned in year 10.

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:

Delete as appropriate:

Year 11 - Progress reports are published 4 times per year, in October, December, February and March, with a face-to-face parents' evening in October.

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	Christianity Beliefs and Teachings Buddhism Beliefs and Teachings	<u>Christianity Beliefs and Teachings content:</u> Sin, salvation and the role of Christ in Salvation <u>Buddhism Beliefs and Teachings content:</u> The Buddha's birth, early life, 4 sights, ascetic life and enlightenment <u>Skills:</u> Timed exam questions with less support and structure to develop independence with these. Revision and recall of year 10 content.	Versatility and endurance as pupils start to develop their knowledge of contrasts between Christianity and Buddhism	Combination of practice exam questions at home and in lesson. End of unit test in timed conditions on Christianity Beliefs and Teachings.	
2	Buddhism Beliefs and Teachings	<u>Content:</u> The four noble truths, the three marks of existence, Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism <u>Skills:</u> Timed exam questions with less support and structure to develop independence with these. PPE revision and recall of year 10 content to complete a full exam paper.	Ambition as students study some tricky content for Buddhism.	Combination of practice exam questions at home and in lesson. End of unit test in timed conditions. Full Paper 2 for PPE.	Studying the eightfold path – an aspect is right livelihood and the impact this has on careers for Buddhists.
3	Christianity Practices	<u>Content:</u> Types of worship and prayer, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Holy Communion, The role of the Church in the local community: street pastors and food banks, pilgrimage, festivals, mission and evangelism, The role of the worldwide Church: reconciliation and persecution, Church response to poverty <u>Skills:</u> Timed exam practice in lesson. Completing full Christianity paper to support timing practice.	Integrity and empathy whilst looking at issues like religious persecution and poverty.	Combination of practice exam questions at home and in lesson. Full Christianity Paper in timed conditions.	Roles in local community e.g. working and supporting food banks and street pastors (volunteering careers)
4	Buddhism Practices	<u>Content:</u> Worship, meditation, visualisation, death ceremonies and funerals, festivals, karma and rebirth, karuna, metta, the five moral precepts and the six perfections <u>Skills:</u> Timed exam practice in lesson. Completing full Buddhism paper to support timing practice.	Ambition as students apply knowledge from the beliefs and teachings to the practices of Buddhism.	Combination of practice exam questions at home and in lesson. Full Buddhism Paper in timed conditions.	
5	Revision	Content retrieval for Paper 2 and thematic studies. Practice of exam skills with timed practice. Covering key aspects of the Paper 1 Religion content, ensuring good knowledge of religious scripture and applying to exam questions	Versatility and endurance as pupils prepare for the final exam.	Timed exam question practice.	

6	Year 11 off for exams				
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