

Curriculum information for Religious Studies Year 11

Which exam board and course are used?	AQA, specification A.
What curriculum topics are being covered this year?	• Christian Practices • Religion and Life • Islam Practices • Crime and Punishment (revisit)
How many exams have students got and what is covered in each one?	External examinations: Two examinations in the summer. Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes. • Paper 1 will be on Christian Beliefs, Christian Practices, Islam Beliefs, and Islam Practices. • Paper 2 will be on Theme A Relationships and Families, Theme B Life and Death, Theme D Peace and Conflict and Theme E Crime and Punishment. Students must answer 5 compulsory questions from each of the units above. Internal assessments: mid and end of each unit. • These will be under exam conditions and timed. Questions will be taken from previous GCSE exam papers and are marked in accordance with the GCSE mark scheme.
What should students be focusing on?	Students should secure their understanding by reviewing their learning periodically. Revision materials can also be found on Teams, BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy. There is a lot of content to learn and so students would benefit from creating revision resources, such as flash cards and mind maps, which they can use through the whole of their course. AQA approved Revision Guides can be purchased through The Polesworth School website, at a reduced cost. All units are of equal value however many students find paper 1 harder than paper 2. Students should concentrate on learning key terms so that they can access what each question is asking them and ensure that they can provide evidence for each idea. This can be a quote, example or statistic.
What is the best way for parents/carers to support students in this subject?	Parents/carers can test their child's knowledge and understanding of key terms and ideas, especially in the run up to assessments. Parents/carers should encourage their child to revisit topics previously learnt to keep their knowledge fresh. Parents/carers can also talk and debate with their child about the issues which have come up in the various topics. This helps develop evaluation skills and supports students in being able to explain arguments clearly.

What websites and resources would be helpful? What wider reading would be helpful? Where can I get resources?	The most useful websites for revision are BBC Bitesize and https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ . Both sites provide information and explanation, as well as quick quizzes to test knowledge. https://quizlet.com/ and https://knowunity.co.uk/auth/signin are websites that provide online revision resources that are pre-made. They can be accessed at home or on the go – so revision can be done anywhere. Ben Wardle provides excellent knowledge through his YouTube account (https://www.youtube.com/@BenWardle), with plenty of tips as well as explaining knowledge/content. AQA Revision Guide can be purchased through the school website at a discounted rate. Resources can also be found on Teams and/or Class Charts. Plan your revision. Use a revision guide template, here is an example of one: https://www.ncchomelearning.co.uk/blog/essential-free-study-revision-timetable/
Have previous students got any tips or advice for this subject?	• Give yourself plenty of time to revise for assessments and exams. Leaving it until the last-minute means you don't do your best work. • Try to think about how ideas relate to each other. There are many times that quotes used in one topic can be used in others as well. • Revise by completing past questions. Doing this will help you know what you have remembered, as well as ensuring you know where there are gaps in your skills.