

**Course information for Parents****Year: 9, 10, 11****Subject: Philosophy and Ethics**

<b>Faculty Area</b>	Character Faculty – Philosophy and Ethics	<b>Director of Faculty contact information</b>	M Bonnett - HoD
<b>Examination Board</b>	AQA	<b>Specification Code</b>	GCSE Religious Studies A: 2016: Specification code: 8062 QAN code: 601/8400/0

**Subject Content**

The new GCSE specification, AQA, will be taught to students in years 9, 10 and 11. This GCSE is a critical investigation into the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam, which will be taught with equal weighting in the second half of year 9 and the first half of year 10. When the students' progress to year 11 they will cover the Ethics components and explore the relationship of both Islam and Christianity with the family, crime, war and relationships. At the beginning of the course in year 9 students will start with a holistic 'monotheism' topic where they will explore the developments in history that led to today's religious climate. Content from all 3 years of the GCSE will be needed for the final examinations and students will return to previous work through "Review and Improve" assessments, held at the end of each topic.

To help students prepare for the demands of this course, the first term of Year 9 (September-Christmas) will examine the historical development of Christianity and Islam, touching on key figures and key dates.

**Additional Equipment Needed** (Ingredients, headphones, PE kit, etc.)

All students will be supplied with an exercise book in their first lesson and will need no other equipment apart from their standard stationary

**Assessment Details:**

This GCSE course will be externally assessed by AQA at the end of year 11 and follows the new GCSE assessment 9-1 levels. Students will sit two papers, each one will be 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Paper 1 will assess the year 9 and 10 content on Beliefs and Practices where students will spend half their time answering structured questions on Islam, and half their time answering structured questions on Christianity. Paper 2 will explore the 4 ethical topics that students cover and they will answer one set of structured questions on each topic.

Each paper is worth 50% of the final grade and students will be assessed through short answer, medium answer and long answer questions. Literacy is worth an additional 5 marks across the paper in the longer answer questions.

Students will be assessed in class periodically and sit cumulative end of topic papers. This means that as the course goes on, the assessments will increase in length, to allow staff to assess understanding of the most recent topics as well as what preceded them. This is to ensure that students make continued progress and to support them in their revision skills. All assessments will feed into the PR points and staff will have detailed conversations with students in class about their progress and skills.

**What can I do to support my child at home?**

Philosophy and Ethics is about helping students understanding the world that they live in. To best support them with this, try and encourage your child to watch the news and take part in a discussion about it – this will help develop their wider understanding and their skills of critical discussion by looking at the arguments in favour and against a particular view point.

Students should also make sure that they have a copy of the specification, whether in a hard format or electronic, so that they can map their progress against the syllabus and use this to help them with their PLCs.

## Recommended resources for the course:

**Websites:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/religious\\_studies.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/religious_studies.shtml)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062> (to download a copy of the specification and access exam materials)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb48q6f> (this is exam board neutral but is good for general topic information)

**Apps:**

Gojimo – Religious Studies

The Revision App (Apple and Android)

**Books:**

Students will be using the AQA endorsed textbooks as part of their learning in class. If you are interested in getting your own copy of these texts, the ISBN information is below:

1. AQA Religious Studies Specification A (9-1) paperback. By L Parry, J Hayes, S Butler. ISBN-10: 1471866858, ISBN-13: 978-1471866852.
2. GCSE Religious Studies for AQA: A Christianity. By M Flemming, P Smith, D Wardon, C Bartlett. ISBN-10: 0198370334 ISBN-13: 978-0198370338.
3. GCSE Religious Studies for AQA: Islam. By M Flemming, P Smith, D Wardon. ISBN-10: 0198370342 ISBN-13: 978-0198370345.

### Teaching Staff Contact Details

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