



RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Full Course)

Subject Leader

Mrs T Simmonds

Examination Board

WJEC

Overview of course content

This is a contemporary, issues-based course which provides students with the opportunity to explore a range of interesting topics and develop a variety of skills. Issues are studied from a religious, moral and ethical perspective and the opportunity is given to identify, investigate and respond to fundamental questions in life.

Skills that will be developed include: communication, problem solving, working with others, discussion, analysis, evaluation and debate. Students will be given time to reflect on their own beliefs, form and offer their own opinions as well as study both religious and non-religious views.

The course comprises of two units:

Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes

Unit 2 Religion and Ethical Themes

They include the following topics:

- 1 An introduction to two World Religions: Christianity and Islam
- 2 Issues of life and death including the debate between science and religion, ethical and medical issues including abortion, organ donation and euthanasia, the origin and sanctity of human life and questions and beliefs about the afterlife.
- 3 Issues of good and evil including consideration of why there is evil and suffering in the world, solutions to this problem, issues surrounding forgiveness and the topic of crime and punishment including debate about the death penalty.
- 4 Issues of relationships, including marriage, divorce, adultery and issues of gender equality, prejudice and discrimination.
- 5 Issues of human rights, including issues concerning social justice, prejudice and discrimination, exploring specifically sexism and racism and issues of wealth and poverty.

Summary of assessment

Assessment is through two structured examinations which test the skills developed through study of the course including defining ideas, describing, explaining and evaluating key knowledge.

Learning Pathways post 16

Religious Studies is a valuable qualification for any future employment and complements many careers and job opportunities. It is an excellent basis for studying AS/A2 Religious Studies of Philosophy & Ethics Post 16.