



Upton Court
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

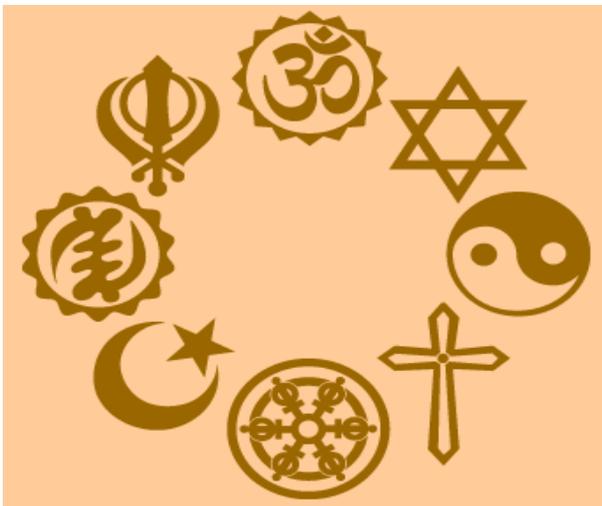
PCR

(Philosophy, Critical Thinking and Religion)
Department

Religion

Starting your
GCSEs

Thinking Skills





PCR: Religious Studies Preparing for your GCSEs Exam board: AQA

As a department, we provide students with opportunities to challenge their thinking and develop a core set of skills designed to prepare them for their GCSE exams, further education and the world of employment. The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is an exciting one and, in Year 9, students are introduced to the structure of the GCSE exam and the various assessment criteria for the Religious Studies course. Study will include looking at Christianity, a choice of a second religion and a number of moral and social issues, such as human rights, medical ethics and many other contemporary issues.

One lesson a week will be dedicated to Critical Thinking and PSCHÉ where students will develop their ability in and understanding of wider personal, social and health education issues, using thinking skills.

Achieving your Potential

Preparing for exams can seem daunting but the Department provides many tailored revision resources and support to aid learning. Here are some of the ways in which you can make the most of support:

- Join any Edmodo revision groups PCR teachers invite you to; these have many resources specific to our exam board.
- Use YouTube to access many revision screencasts and videos.
- Purchase or download any tailored revision materials.
- Use in-class and homework opportunities to create revision resources such as cue cards, quizzes and podcasts in order to consolidate learning.
- Develop analytical skills by applying learning to real world situations.

Strategies for improving literacy:

- ✓ Green pen checking all written work.
- ✓ Writing in a range of styles (fiction and non-fiction).
- ✓ Redrafting work.
- ✓ Self-assessing work against the assessment criteria.
- ✓ Independent reading of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- ✓ Keep a reading log, summarizing and analysing your reading.
- ✓ Create a WOW vocabulary log.

In order to succeed in the study of Religious Studies students will need to have an extensive vocabulary, articulate key beliefs from two religions, be able to apply different beliefs to life situations and moral issues and finally, be able to **critically think** about religious beliefs, concepts and moral problems.

Extending Learning

Of course, the study of Religions at GCSE is never just about passing exams. The PCR Department seeks to provide opportunities for students to enrich learning in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Some of these include:

- Conferences with renowned speakers
- Visits to places of worship
- Interfaith meetings
- Presentations to AND from ordinands and other visitors
- Contribution by students to Diversity Day
- Overseas trips,

- A Humanitarian Society
- Independent reading recommendations (upon request)

Strategies for Learning

Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each lesson or at the end of each week covering key content.
- Keep a log of key quotations on an ongoing basis.
- Use Quizlet and Memorise regularly.
- Review class notes within 24 hours of the lesson.

COPE Strategies:

- Write a blog to share your learning with others.
- Support KS3 students to strengthen your skills.
- Create a homework timetable.
- Title and date your work clearly.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions.
- Use banks of practice questions to create a booklet of essay/writing plans.

Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.



Structure of exams

Component one: Study of Religion

Beliefs, teaching and practices of TWO religions from the following faiths:

Christianity

Hinduism

Islam

Sikhism

(Buddhism or Judaism may be available at agreement of Department and parent.)

Assessment

Written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks in total (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

Questions

Christianity- two five part questions plus one essay (48 marks)

Religion two- two five part questions plus one essay (48 marks)

Component two: Philosophy and Ethics

Study of FOUR Philosophical or Ethical Themes

1. Relationships and Religion
2. Religion and Life
3. Existence of God and Revelation
4. Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Assessment

Written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks in total (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

Question

Each of the FOUR Themes is examined with one five part question (24 marks each)

Useful Websites

BBC sites http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/re.shtml

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb48q6f>

OTHER sites http://www.religioustolerance.org/var_rel.htm

<http://christianity.org.uk/>

<http://www.christianity.com/>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

<http://www.hinduismtoday.com/>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/>

<https://www.islamicity.com/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

<http://www.sikhs.org/>

<http://www.sikhismguide.org/facts.aspx>

YOUTUBE

GODTUBE <http://www.godtube.com/>

Recommended reading for the summer holidays

Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy 2007 by Jostein Gaarder

GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Christianity by Marianne Fleming 2016

GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Islam by Marianne Fleming 2016

GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Hinduism by Mary Horsley 2016

GCSE Religious Studies AQA A: Sikhism 2016
