

CURRICULUM INTENT

*“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”
Albert Einstein*

Religious studies, a core GCSE subject, will build on the KS3 exploring the most basic questions concerning human existence *sambandha* (the relationship between the living entity and the Supreme Entity), *abhidheya* (the means for attaining the object of pursuit) and *prayojana* (the very object of pursuit) namely Man, the world, and God. The KS4 curriculum will give depth and insight to the beliefs, teachings, and practices of Christianity. KS4 will further deepen the knowledge of KS3 Hinduism.

The KS4 has an overarching focus on the application of both Hindu and Christian thought, especially on the thematic study of:

- Relationships and families
- Religion and Life
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, peace and conflict

We will continue to emphasise to students: 'don't accept, don't reject - think about these concepts and build your own conclusion.' This cultivates their independent thoughtfulness, building both their written and verbal communication to evaluate, assess and discuss challenging concepts. These skills of PRE/RS are transferable across all subjects and in life.

Our aspiration is for students to have an ambitious engagement with PRE with hope that they mature into applying into their lives wisdom, both ancient and contemporary.

THE AVANTI WAY

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



PRE is a challenging holistic curriculum that cultivates independently thoughtful and reflective practice building on both written and verbal communication. Students work towards a sense of mastery to evaluate, assess and challenge difficult concepts through the exploration of 'big questions.' Students listen with an open mind, questions their own assumptions with emphatic dialogue.

CHARACTER FORMATION



PRE equips students to become conscious changemakers as a quest for making the world a better place, starting with oneself. Through the lens of the school's values, students practice living conscientious choices, with sense of stewardship as well as a reverence for all life, nature and the earth's resources. The application of wisdom includes global perspectives to facilitate their transcultural proficiency.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT



PRE promotes our interconnectedness with all living beings, challenging perceptions of the Self beyond its layers of coverings and seeing every being as individual and unique. Students evidence spiritual insight in terms of their own identity, their relationship with others, with the wider world and for some, their relationship with God. PRE offers experiences of worship, festivals and celebrations.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY: Skills/Knowledge/Understanding

The curriculum develops learners’ a) knowledge and understanding of Hinduism and Christianity, and b) critical thinking and evaluative skills.

KS4 will ensure that all pupils cultivate four aspects:

Knowledge:

-learning from and about religious philosophical concepts drawing from the Hindu and Christian traditions

Critical thought:

-teaching students how to construct arguments and debate (in written and oral ways), with critical analysis as essential

-teaching students to become skillful and articulate questioners, able to question ‘blind faith’, common assumptions or held views.

Application:

-applying learning and skills to ethical and moral dilemmas

-debating and questioning ‘big’ philosophical questions and problems.

Experience:

-experiencing religious life in real contexts

-learning about different religious rituals, festivals and ways of life

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A - full course Specification: 8062

	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn first term	Christianity: Beliefs and Teaching End of the topic assessment	Hinduism: Beliefs and Teaching End of the topic assessment
Autumn second half-term	Christianity: Practices End of the topic assessment	Hinduism: Practices End of the topic assessment
Spring first term	Theme A: Relationship and families End of the topic assessment	Revision and PIP
Spring second term	Theme B: Religion and Life End of the topic assessment	Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment Revision
Summer first term	Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict	Revision and exam preparation
Summer second term	Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict Revision and PIP	

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Progress will be regularly assessed through class work, homework and knowledge tests. In addition, students will be assessed through:

- Formal assessments in the line of the school's progress reviews
- Peer assessment
- Self-assessment topic sheet (one for each scheme of work)
- Knowledge tests
- Critical thinking and argument evaluation through presentations
- AQA GCSE paper practice for 12, 6, 4 and 2 mark questions.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAM PAPERS

Paper 1: The study of religion: beliefs, teachings and practices

What is assessed?

Beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions:

- Christianity
- Hinduism

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.
- 96 marks (plus three marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology).
- 50% of GCSE.

Questions

- Religion one: two five-part questions (48 marks).
 - Religion two: two five-part questions (48 marks).
- TOTAL = 96 MARKS + 3 SPaG** (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Paper 2: Thematic studies

What is assessed?

Study of four themes:

- A) Relationships and families
- B) Religion and life
- D) Religion, peace and conflict
- E) Religion, crime and punishment

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.
- 96 marks (plus three marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology).
- 50% of GCSE.

Questions

Each of the four themes chosen is examined by one five-part question (24 marks each).

TOTAL = 96 MARKS + 3 SPaG

RECOMMENDED READING / OTHER RESOURCES

Students will have access to the AQA Christianity text book. Students can also source the Revision Guides and past papers:

