



# Religious Studies Department Newsletter

**TERM 1**

SEPTEMBER 2019

*This newsletter is written with parents and students in mind, and enabling students to best prepare for their GCSE in Religious Studies. Later issues will give helpful hints regarding:*

- good ways to revise.
- exam tips and revision help
- details about the key knowledge tests for year 10-11
- details on the GCSE pod and revision booklets available

## Exam details & dates

Paper 1: Origins and Meaning/ Good and Evil	Mon 11th May 1h30m PM
Paper 2: Life and Death/ Sin & Forgiveness	Tue 19th May 1h30m PM
Paper 3: Judaism	Fri 22nd May 1h AM

### Exam paper structure:

#### Paper 1: (1h30m)

Origins and Meaning: ai, aii, bi, bii, ci, cii, d +SPAG

Good & Evil: a,b,c,di,dii

#### Paper 2: (1h30m)

Life & Death: a,b,c,di, + SPAG, dii

Sin & Forgiveness: ai,aii,bi,bii.ci,cii, d

#### Paper 3: Judaism (1h)

Beliefs & Teachings: a,b,c,d/ Worship & Practice: a,b,c,d

## Year 10

### What will students be learning this term?

Students began their study for the GCSE in term 6 of Year 9. They began a study of the key beliefs and teachings of Judaism, which is a theme throughout the course. In term 1 of Year 10, they will complete this section of paper 3, and later return to the second section of Judaism in Year 11.

Later in Term 1, students will commence the Catholic Foundational Theology. We begin with the learning for Paper 1, where we examine Catholic Christian, Jewish, other Christian and humanist approaches to questions of meaning, such as: How did the uni-

verse originate? How special are humans? What do we mean by 'imago dei'? How should humans look after creation?

### How can you help your child?

1. Help quiz them on their key knowledge, ready for their mid term test.
2. Regular testing of key words for the 2 mark questions.
3. Encourage them to use their help sheets and feedback in their homework exam question tasks
4. Discuss current affairs, including ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia.
5. Spend time where they teach you the content they have learned—use the revision booklets on the pupil drive to test them, including the practice questions!

### Did you know...?

Religious studies GCSE is a useful subject in all careers? Check this out from a Careers advice booklet:

*'Religion is rarely out of the news. Understanding the beliefs, values and motivations behind the stories is bound to be useful, whatever your career choice. Taking religious studies (RS) will:*

*\*give you knowledge about what other people believe and the sort of world we live in ; give you an understanding of what people mean when they say certain things ; help you to evaluate different points of view; give you the opportunity to debate some of the big issues you will have to face during the course of your own life.*

*At the same time, you will be: clarifying some of your own ideas and hopes for the future ; learning to put across your own point of view ; developing all kinds of skills and attitudes including self-awareness, tolerance, the ability to communicate and listen effectively and analytical skills*

Source: [Careers.wales.com](http://careers.wales.com)

## Year 11

Students are returning to complete their study for Paper 2. This involves 2 modules. The first, Life and Death, covers questions such as 'Is there a life after death? Is it possible to die well? Do people have a right to choose how and when to die? Are heaven and hell real? Can a loving God allow hell? Does God judge us on how we treat others? Can music help people to pray? Should funerals be sad? Is there any point in praying for the dead?'

### How can you help your child?

Encourage your child to look at the specific feedback from the recent Year 10 exams. Which areas do they need to target in their knowledge and exam questions?

Look for issues surrounding death in the media, including 'right to die' arguments, euthanasia, and pro-life responses.

Discuss examples of Near Death Experiences in the news.

Students have ready access

to the school-produced revision guides: it is important they read ahead and think around the topics, developing the skills for the challenging 'D' responses.

A letter will shortly be emailed detailing the excellent Hodder revision guide, priced at approx. £10. It simplifies revision and has online exam checker resources. We highly recommend it as a companion to lesson materials and classroom learning.