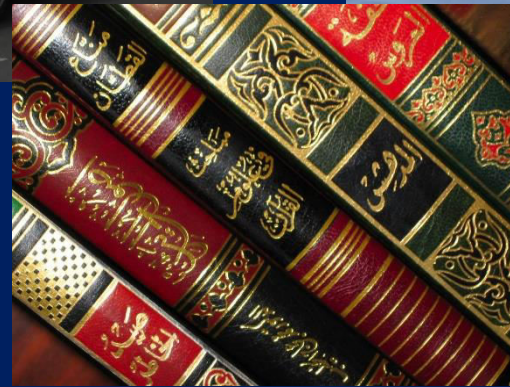


Welcome to GCSE Religious Studies



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Specification Info

RELIGION & ETHICS

RELIGION AND LIFE: Origins of the Universe and human life, Abortion, Euthanasia, Death and afterlife, Natural world.

MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY: Marriage, Sexual relationships, Family, Contraception, Divorce and remarriage, Gender equality.

RELIGION, PEACE & CONFLICT

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: Justice, Good and evil and suffering, Aims of punishment, Forgiveness, Treatment of criminals, Death penalty.

RELIGION, PEACE AND CONFLICT: Peace-making, Pacifism, Just War Theory, Holy War, Weapons of mass destruction, Terrorism.

**100% exam
2 papers at
the end of
Year 11**

Lessons are
similar to those
at present in
Year 9

**Plus an in-
depth study
of 2 religions
(Islam and
Christianity)**

EDEXCEL Religious Studies Spec B GCSE



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What you will learn

- You will explore your own, religious and atheist responses to challenging moral questions on issues such as capital punishment, war and matters of life and death. You will also develop a deep and detailed understanding of core Islamic and Christian beliefs and you will be able to explain how these beliefs are reflected in the lives of believers today.
- You do not have to be religious to study this course! In fact, most people who study it are not religious.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFV8xWFvqvc&feature=emb_title



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How you will be assessed/question types etc

- The thematic element of the course makes up 50% of the assessment and 50% is on religious beliefs and their application in the world today.
- This is a written subject. You will be expected to outline, explain and evaluate.
- Examples of exam questions taken from different sections of an exam:

(a) Outline **three** ways natural suffering causes problems for Christians.

(b) Explain **two** beliefs about life after death shown in the Bible.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why many Muslims are against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

(d) "Capital punishment is good for society."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

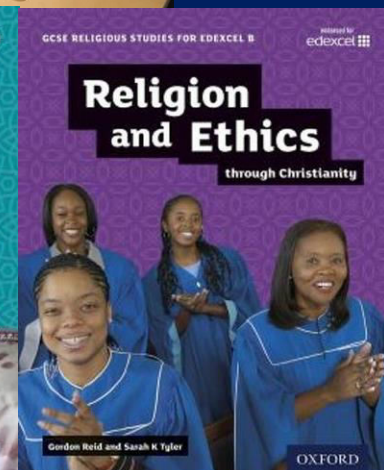
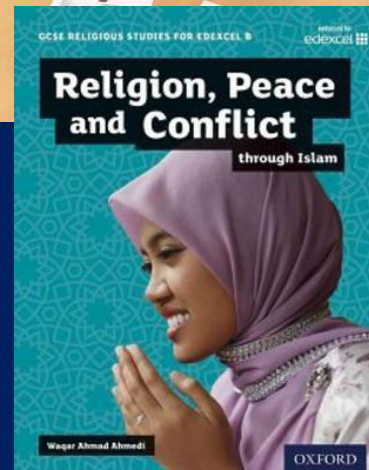
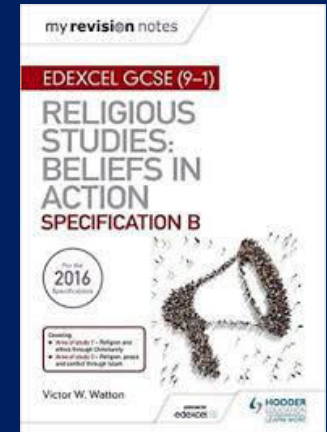


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Resources

EDEXCEL GCSE RS: ISLAM			
3: Living the Muslim Life			
Revision summary: Ten Obligatory Acts			
Key question	Quotations from the Qur'an and Muslim teachings	Diagram	
How does being committed to following the Ten Obligatory Acts impact on Shi'a Muslims' lifestyles?	<p>"The believers, both men and women, respect each other. They order what is right and forbid what is wrong. They keep up the prayer and give the prescribed alms. They obey God and His Messenger." (Qur'an, Surah 9: 71)</p> <p>"... keep up regular prayer, for prayer is obligatory for the believers at prescribed times." (Qur'an, Surah 4: 103)</p> <p>"You who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, so that you may be mindful of God." (Qur'an, Surah 2: 183)</p> <p>"Prophage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it." (Qur'an, Surah 2: 175)</p> <p>"Know that one-fifth of your battle gains belongs to God and His Messenger. In those relations and explores, to the needy and travellers." (Qur'an, Surah 8: 41)</p> <p>"You who believe, be mindful of God... and strive for His cause, so that you may prosper." (Qur'an, Surah 3: 30)</p> <p>"You who believe, do not take My enemies and yours as your allies." (Qur'an, Surah 85: 1)</p>		
Key terms and other important words to know	Divergent views within Islam	Exam questions	Extension activities
<p>Don't tell me! - encouraging good actions</p> <p>Hajj - pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Zakat - giving to the poor</p> <p>Saun - fasting during the month of Ramadan</p> <p>Salah - praying five times a day</p> <p>Saun - fasting during the month of Ramadan</p> <p>Talawa - discussion with and people</p> <p>Talawa - discussion with and people</p> <p>Ten Obligatory Acts - the most important duties of a Shi'a Muslim</p> <p>Zakat - aims to be given based on ownership of things like gold, cattle and crops</p>	<p>The most important duties of a Shi'a Muslim are called the Ten Obligatory Acts. These acts were formulated by early Shi'a scholars and are based on the Qur'an and Hadith.</p> <p>While some Muslims do not use the phrase 'Ten Obligatory Acts' when talking about their own duties, all of the Acts are also recognized and performed by Sunni Muslims. However, Sunni Muslims do not give 20 per cent of their earnings (Zakat).</p> <p>While there are some differences between the Sunnis and Shi'a traditions, it is important to know that many of their beliefs and duties are shared.</p>	<p>1. Outline three of the Ten Obligatory Acts. (3)</p> <p>2. Explain two ways that a Shi'a Muslim can show their commitment. (4)</p> <p>3. Explain two reasons why the Ten Obligatory Acts are important to Shi'a Muslims. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority. (5)</p> <p>4. Talawa must be considered the most important of the Ten Obligatory Acts. Evaluate the statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to Muslim teachings refer to different Muslim points of view reach a justified conclusion. (15) 	<p>1. Explain how fasting during Ramadan might influence how a Muslim feels about Zakat and Hajj.</p> <p>2. Research the activities of the Crescent to help the victims of conflict as Muslim Aid who provide aid to areas in need.</p> <p>3. How does following the Ten Obligatory Acts link to greater jihad? Can you suggest your explanation with appropriate quotations?</p>



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Skills developed

Empathy

Understanding

Reflection

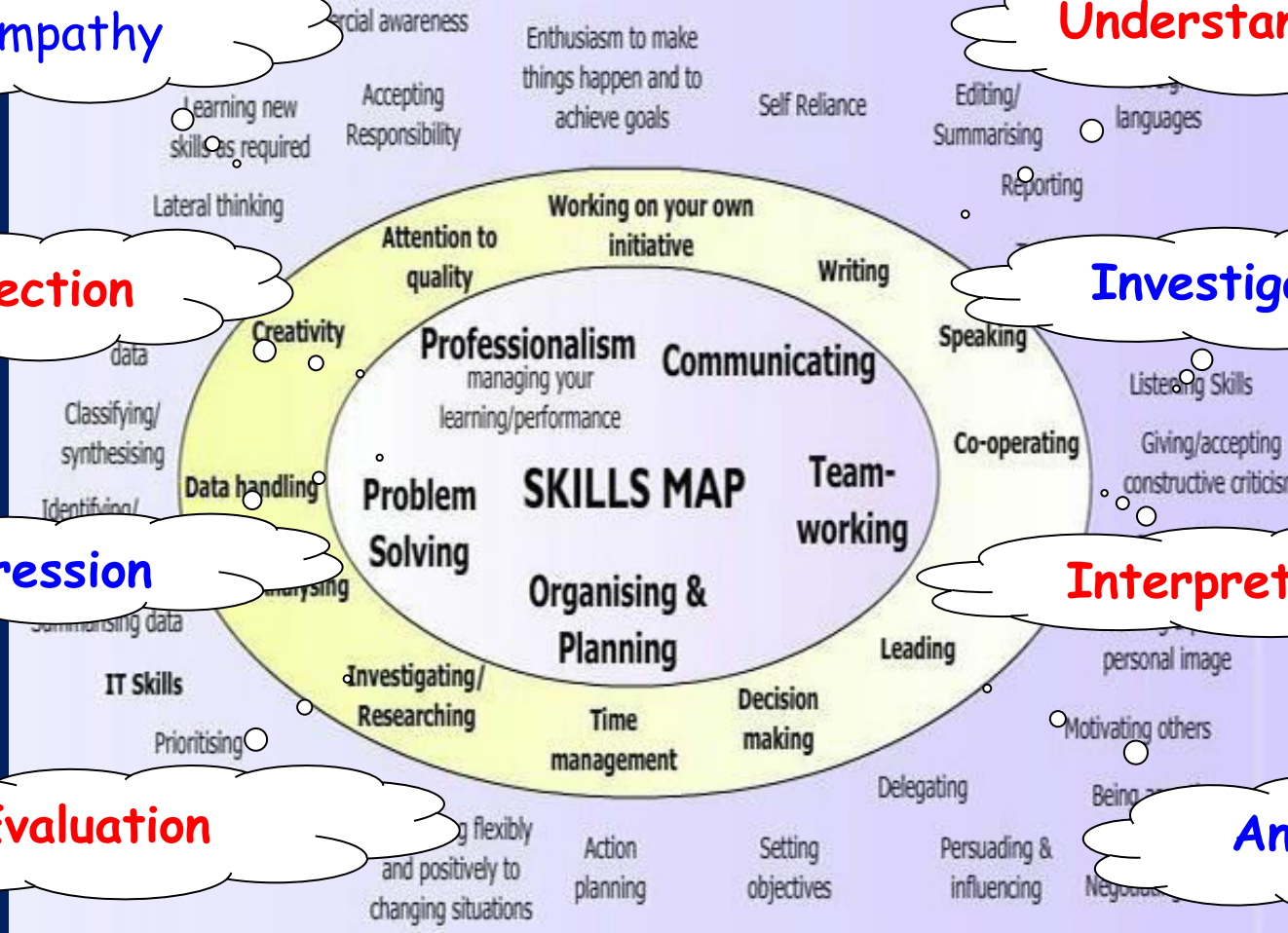
Investigation

Expression

Interpretation

Evaluation

Analysis



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Careers/Next steps

If you are interested in one of these careers then Religious Studies could be a great choice for you. How the course links to these careers is shown in brackets:

- **Medicine** (medical ethics e.g abortion and euthanasia)
- **Law** (ethical dilemmas and evaluating real world problems)
- **Police force** (understanding of different cultures and faiths)
- **Social work** (understanding of different cultures and faiths)
- **Armed Forces** (understanding of different culture and faiths)
- **Ministry** (religious knowledge of Islam and Christianity)



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Where can you find more information

UCAS:

<https://www.ucas.com/job-subjects/religious-studies>

Religious Education Council:

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/gcse-pupil-on-religious-education-in-modern-britain/>

University options for further study (Guardian):

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jun/07/subject-guide-religious-studies-theology>



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Student Responses

I wasn't sure whether I'd made the right choice with RE but it is now my favourite subject! We have done lots of creative lessons like junk modelling and group projects.

Ex-student responses

I was worried that GCSE RE would be all about religion and that we'd be sat reading the Bible every lesson. It's actually really interesting and I have enjoyed the discussions and debates.

RE has given me the opportunity to discuss my views on important topics such as euthanasia and the death penalty.



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