

# Y9 Pathways: GCSE Religious Studies

Why should you choose  
GCSE RS?

**AQA**  
Realising potential

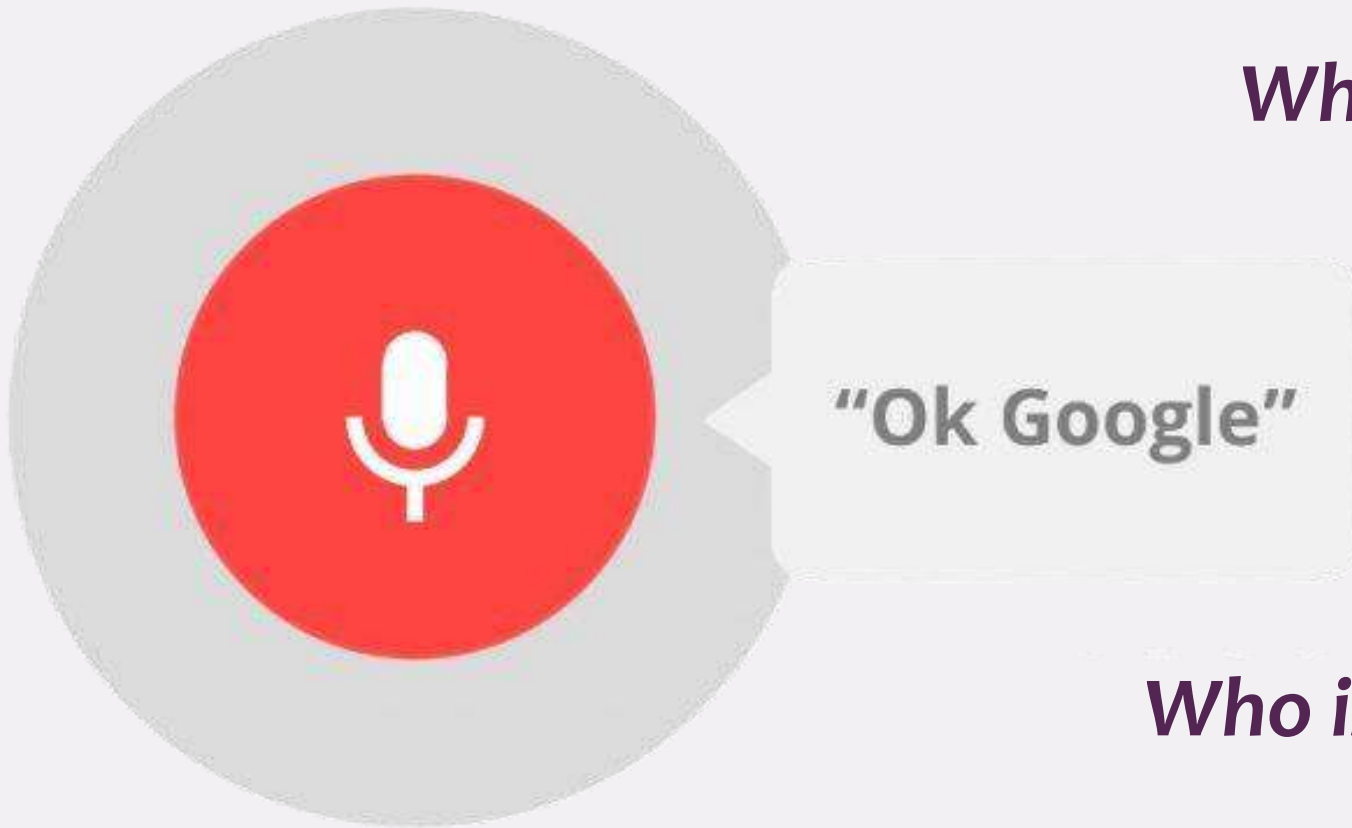


# There are lots of questions that we can answer with Google...

*Who was Henry VIII's third wife?*

*What is the Mitochondria?*

*Who is Pythagoras?*



**However, there are lots of questions  
that Google can't answer...**

*Why am I here?*

*What makes a person  
morally good?*

*Why does a "loving God"  
allow suffering to happen?*

The logo for Google Assistant, featuring a red circle with a white microphone icon inside, set against a grey background with a white speech bubble shape.

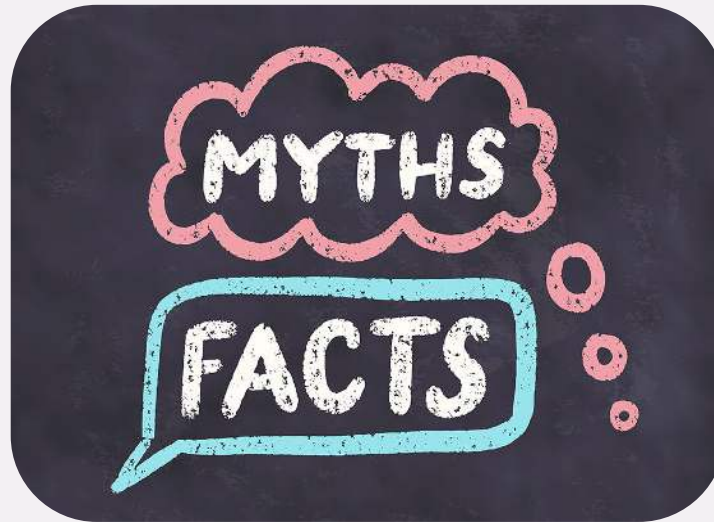
**"Ok Google"**

**I don't know!  
You'll have to take  
GCSE RS!**

# GCSE RS is not what it used to be...

... and it's not the RS that our parents did!

It's all about religion!!!



You have to be religious!

You just sit and read the Bible...

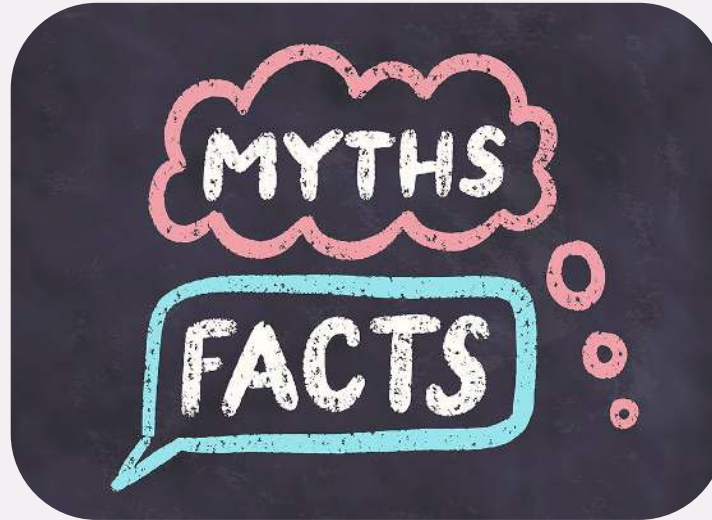
It's irrelevant!

# GCSE RS is...

**Modern and Engaging!**

Students will gain a **deeper understanding of two religions** (Christianity & Islam) and **explore philosophical and ethical studies** into the modern world.

**Designed to Inspire!**



The spec includes exciting content exploring **Crime & Punishment, Peace & Conflict, Religion & Life, and Philosphical arguments** about the existence of God

**Designed to give you skills for today's world!**

GCSE RE can open up the possibility of **in-depth debate**, which leads to **critical evaluation & analysis** – important skills in any domain!

# What does the exam look like?

The AQA GCSE Religious Studies Exam contains only 5 types of question, repeated.

**Bonus!**  
Exam Skills  
taught by an  
AQA Examiner!

Q1 (1m) – Multiple Choice

Q2 (2m) – Give two religious beliefs / attitudes / reasons why... (bullet points!)

Q3 (4m) – Explain two ways / beliefs about / influences of / reasons why...

Q4 (5m) – Same as question 3, but you add a source of religious authority (a quote).

Q5 (12m) - You will be given a statement to critically evaluate whether people will agree or disagree.

E.g. "The belief in Jesus is all that Christians need to be save from sin" / "Following Muslim practices is difficult in the modern world"

# What does the exam look like?

The AQA GCSE Religious Studies Exam is made up of 2 papers...



**Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes:**

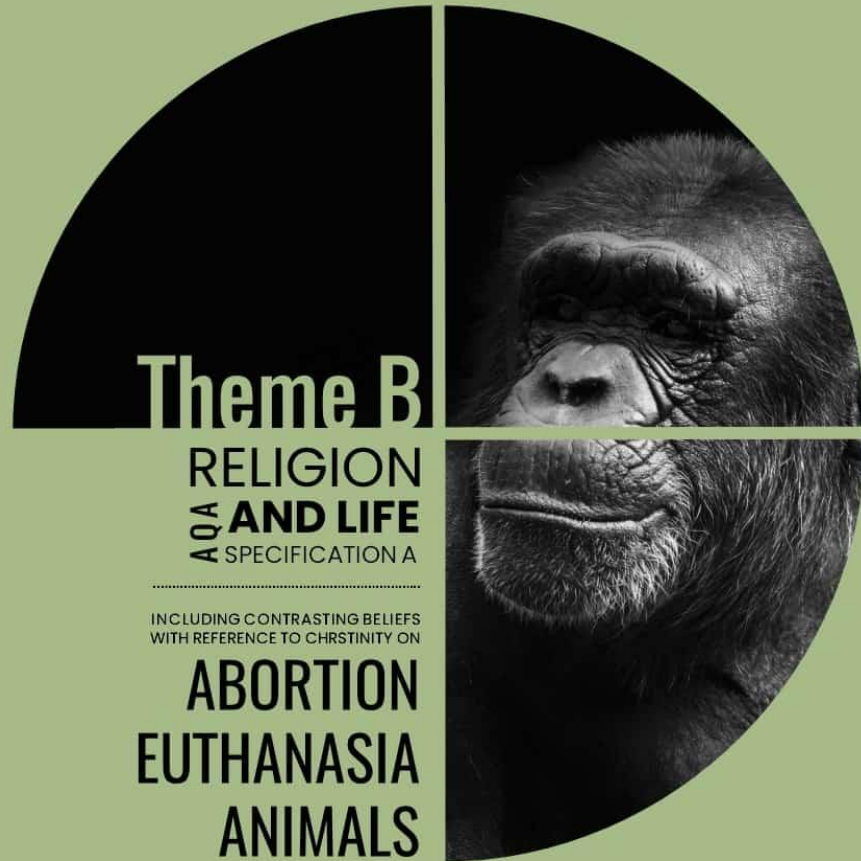
**Christianity – Beliefs and Practices**

**Islam – Beliefs and Practices**

**Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes:**

**Thematic Studies...**





# Thematic Studies

Paper 2 presents an opportunity to apply our knowledge of religion to real life, relevant and interesting discussions!

*Should Abortion be allowed?*

*How should we treat animals?*

*Do we have a duty to care for the environment for the next generation?*

*Is it ever right to end a life?*



# Thematic Studies

Paper 2 presents an opportunity to apply our knowledge of religion to real life, relevant and interesting discussions!

*Does God exist?*

*Can religious experiences be trusted?*

*Does the existence of evil disprove God?*

*Do miracles actually happen?*



THE DESIGN ARGUMENT • FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT  
EVIL • SUFFERING • SCIENCE • SPECIAL REVELATION • ENLIGHTENMENT  
OMNIPOTENT • OMNISCIENT • IMMANENT • TRANSCENDENT • IMPERSONAL • PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



PEACE • JUSTICE • FORGIVENESS • RECONCILIATION  
PROTEST • TERRORISM • REASONS FOR WAR • THE JUST WAR THEORY • HOLY WAR  
PACIFISM • CAUSES OF WAR • WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION • VICTIMS OF WAR

# Thematic Studies

Paper 2 presents an opportunity to apply our knowledge of religion to real life, relevant and interesting discussions!

*Should religious people go to war?*

*Should we have nuclear weapons?*

*Is violence ever justified?*

*It is ever ok to protest?*



# Thematic Studies

Paper 2 presents an opportunity to apply our knowledge of religion to real life, relevant and interesting discussions!

*Should the Death Penalty be legalised?*

*Is there ever a good reason to break the law?*

*How should we treat criminals?*

*Can murder ever be forgiven?*

# Skills employers are looking for:

- Analytical and Strategic thinking ✓
- Research skills ✓
- Critical judgement ✓
- Teamwork ✓
- Conflict resolution ✓
- Problem Solving ✓
- Leadership Skills ✓
- Empathy ✓
- Negotiation ✓

***Does RS help  
with this?***

# Why should I choose GCSE RS?

Legal, Social,  
Welfare  
Professionals

Business,  
HR, Finance

Military

Healthcare

Retail, Catering,  
Hospitality

Career Paths  
through RS

Marketing,  
PR and Sales  
Professionals

Educational  
Professionals

Journalism /  
Politics

MY FUTURE

If you have any questions about the exam, the content or whether GCSE RS would be a good choice for you, speak to:

- Miss Montgomery (Head of RE & PSHE)
- Mr Connolly

Or explore:

[AQA | Religious Studies | GCSE | GCSE Religious Studies](#)