

Religious Education KS4

(2 year compulsory course)
Course Leader: Miss Assadi

Staffing: Miss Assadi, Mrs Norton and Mr Jukes.

Exam Board: AQA Spec B

Religious Education is a compulsory 2 year GCSE course at Harrow High. Learners are timetabled for 2 lessons each week both in year 10 and 11. Learners sit their exams in year 11.

The specification is set up to help students develop an awareness of different religious views regarding a number of different topics. Students will develop an understanding of the similarities between different religions focusing on the morals and principles. The specification gives learners an opportunity to debate issues and draw on different religious views.

As part of the 2 year course, learners will study 8 different topics from 2 different units.

The two units which have been picked for the learners are:

Unit 2: Religion and Life issues

Unit 3: Religion and Morality.

Unit 2 Topics:

Topic 1: Religion and Prejudice, this topic aims to look at religious views regarding prejudice and discrimination. As part of the unit learners will spend time looking at famous religious people who have fought against prejudice. Learners will read religious stories/ teachings which demonstrate principles of equality.

Topic 2: Religion and Animal Rights, this topic looks at the rights of animals focusing on religious views. Learners will examine different religious beliefs such as those who oppose eating meat and those who don't. As part of this topic a speaker from Animal Aid is invited in, giving learners an opportunity to ask questions and debate and listen to different views.

Topic 3: Religion and Young People, this topic looks at how religion influences young people, as part of this topic learners will examine different religious celebrations as well as different initiation ceremonies and coming of age ceremonies.

Topic 4: Religion and Early Life, this topic examine when life is believed to start. As part of the topic learners will examine different religious beliefs and look at both Pro Life and Pro Choice argument regarding abortions and conception. This topic also

teaches learners different methods of contraception and religious views regarding different methods of contraception.

Unit 3 Topics:

Topic 5: Religious Attitudes to Matters of Life, within this topic, learners will learn about the different views on why life is considered as special. Learners will also look at issues such as fertility treatment, artificial insemination, embryology and cloning. Whilst looking at these issues, learners will examine religious beliefs and look at arguments for and against the issues above.

Topic 6: Religious Attitudes to the Elderly and Death, within the topic learners look at religious beliefs regarding both treatment of the elderly and beliefs surrounding death. Learners will examine beliefs regarding who should look after the elderly, attitudes to the elderly and what death means. Within this topic learners will also examine debates surrounding euthanasia and how long people should be kept alive. Religious attitudes regarding suicide and suffering will be considered. Learners are to acknowledge both arguments for and against each issue.

Topic 7: Religious Attitudes to Drug Abuse, this topic is very similar to the Drugs Unit studied within SMSC in year 9. Learners will look at the legal status of drugs, why people use drugs and reasons why people shouldn't use illegal drugs. Where appropriate, learners will discuss religious views regarding drugs.

Topic 8: Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment, within this topic learners look at religious beliefs regarding law and order, causes of crime, types of crime and the aims of punishment. Further learners will learn about capital punishment and different religious views regarding punishment. Learners will examine the different forms of punishment and also look at young offenders and punishment.

How Learners Are Assessed

Learners will be required to complete two exam papers. Each paper is to be completed in 1hr 30 minutes.

Prior to the exams, learners will sit mock exams. Learners will also complete mini in class mock on completion of each topic.

Homework:

Homework plays an integral part of the course where students get to develop and enhance their independent working skills. Homework at KS4 is set weekly and will include researching, written work and exam preparation by answering past exam questions.

Revision, Intervention and Enrichment

Underachieving learners are encouraged to attend lunch time sessions on Fridays. There are also Saturdays and some holiday booster sessions which are held in preparation for examinations.