GCSE Religious Studies

AQA 8062

CONTENT WARNING

This course is a GCSE and is therefore aimed at students of 14+. Students who are younger than this are more than welcome, but there will be reference to adult themes from time to time. This course contains references to sexual assault and rape, sex, contaception and abotion, violence and warfare. I do not cover these things gratuitously but they are a core part of the course at times and feature in the textbook.

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Key Information

Course Price	£380 divided over 12 months at £30, +£20 deposit.
Course Length	1 Year of 47 Lessons
Lesson Length	1 hour 30 minutes
Lesson Times	Thursdays 9:30:11:00
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Course Code	8062
Exams	2 Papers of 1 hour 45 mins

Component 1: Christianity

Our first unit of study will be all Christianity. We will look at its roots and history, the core beliefs that are shared by the majority of Christians and the common practices of Christians today. We will look at a range of Christian denominations from Roman Catholicism to Anglicanism and Quakerism.

You will be asked to consider the important differences between denominations and your own opinions about Christian beliefs and practices. You will need to examine the religion from a range of perspectives other than your own.

Component 2: Buddhism

Our first unit of study will be all about Buddhism. We will look at its roots and history, the core beliefs that are shared by the majority of Buddhists and the common practices of Buddhists today. We will look at a range of Buddhist schools including a range of Theravada and Mahayana schools.

You will be asked to understand some complex philosophical ideas and to become familiar with Pali words such as Dukkha, Anatta and Annica. You will be asked to critically evaluate Buddhist beliefs and practices from a range of viewpoints other than your own.

Component 3: Thematic Studies

The second half of the course is made up of four thematic studies. These take in ideas from a range of religions including, but not exclusive to, Christianity and Buddhism.

Family and Relationships
This unit focuses on topics from marriage and divorce to sexuality, gender
roles and the use of contraception.

Religion, Peace and Conflict
This unit asks why conflict occurs, whether conflict is ever justified and
looks at issues surrounding terrorism and the use of nuclear weapons.

Religion, Crime and Punishment
This unit looks at the place of punishment in society with a special focus
on the use of prisons and capital punishment.

Religion and Life
This unit focuses on religious and philosophical arguments for and against
practices such as abortion, euthanasia and animal testing.

Examination Information

2 exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each.

There will be a range of partial and full mock exams throughout the year. We take mock exams in lessons which will be recorded in case we need evidence of work due to any exam complications in 2027.

I mark all exams and provide feedback. We will study all the required exam skills in class and most homework will be based on exam questions.

Exams are readily available across the county at independent exam centres such as A3, Faregos and Tutors & Exams. I am partnered with Tutors & Exams but this does not mean you must take the exam with them.

The deadline for exam entries is usually around the end of January. I suggest that you sign up before then to avoid any delays, especially if you require access arrangements due to any special needs (extra time, use of a laptop etc.)

I **cannot** sign up to exam for you, but I can offer help and advice. It is also no me who can decide if a student requires extra time etc; that's something you must arrange with the exam centre you choose to sit the exam with.

This specific GCSE includes some essay writing. The student must be able to write a couple of pages of prose A4 confinity to achieve good grades

You can find examples of exam papers on the OCR website.

Assessment and Homework

In order to track student's progress, I ask them to complete regular homework and mock exam assessments.

Homework will be set every other week and will usually be based on exam questions so that they can be marked and graded.

All students must have access to a printer to print off homework and exam papers.

All students must have a way of sending me completed homework. You can either photograph this and send it or scan it in. (If you have completed work on the computer than this is a simple email).

It is much appreciated if work can be sent in .pdf form as this drastically cuts down the time it takes to mark.

All homework will be returned, marked, within two days of being sent unless we are taking a holiday. Most homework is sent back the next day.

Drop-In

If a student requires help with homework, or anything else, they can email me at any time or join my drop-in session every **Saturday from 11-12pm**.

This session is open to all students and their parents for free and you can ask me anything!

Reports

I send out written reports each November to give parents and students a good idea of how they are progressing. This report will show how regularly homework is completed, attendance and average grades so far.

How Lessons Work

All lessons are online and use the Zoom platform. Students will have a link that they can use for the entire year.

All lessons are recorded so should you miss a lesson, you can catch up. These are all stored on a central Google Drive. These are also great for revision!

Students are not required to use cameras or mics, although they are more than welcome to do so. The exception to this is during mock exams when all students are expected to have a camera pointing at their work, not faces and must have their mics muted.

Students will be able to use the Zoom chat function during lessons if they are uncomfortable with speaking.

Equipment you will need:

- Camera
- Mic
- Stable internet connection
- Notepads and pens for notetaking
- Working printer for printing off assessments etc.

Holidays and Taking Breaks

This an intensive course and as such we do not stop for most holidays, including Bank Holidays.

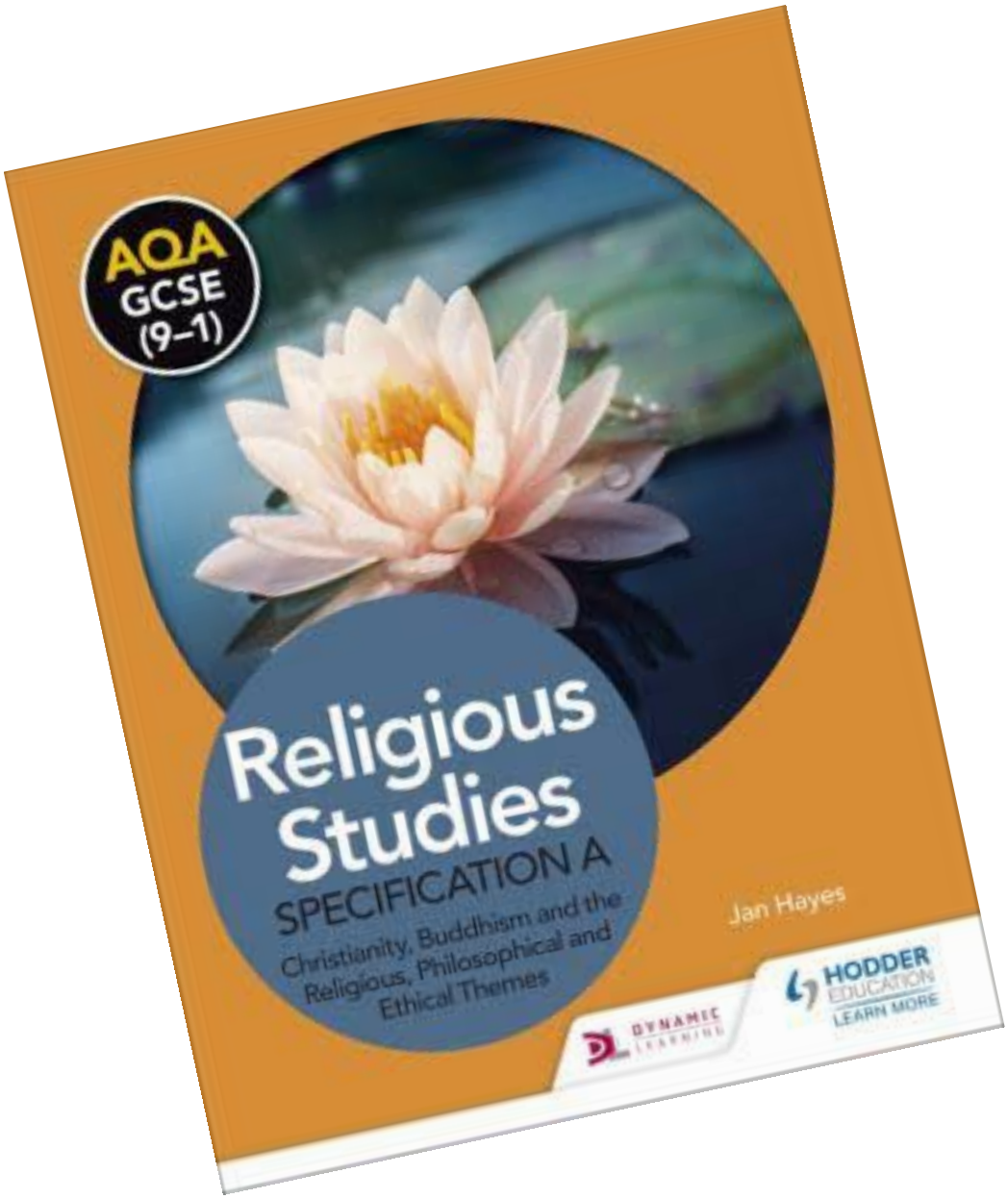
We will have five weeks off throughout the year:

Summer	August 10th-16th
Autumn	October 19th-25th
Winter	December 21st-January 3rd
Spring	April 5th -11th

As all lessons are recorded, it's no problem at all to take additional weeks off. Please be prepared to catch up with missed lessons though by watching recordings and doing any homework set.

If you cannot make a mock exam for any reason, please send me an email. We can usually work out an alternative time to sit these exams.

Textbooks

There is one required textbook for this course:

Religious Studies Specification A (Christianity, Buddhism and the Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Themes)
ISBN: 978-1-5104-7999-9