



The **Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form Religious Studies** curriculum aims to give pupils a broad understanding and depth of religious knowledge. At GCSE level pupils study the AQA course. The course spans the 3 years of year 9,10 and 11 with two exams at the end. The GCSE covers a range contemporary ethical themes, explores some philosophical issues and looks at Christianity and Hinduism in Depth. This ensures you have a diverse range of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious, ethical and philosophical issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Year 11			
Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Theme E: Crime and Punishment Religions Revision	Knowledge: For the final 'theme' of the GCSE the pupils will look at issues surrounding crime and punishment. This ranges from the reasons why people might commit crimes and the aims of punishment, to the topic of forgiveness and even corporeal punishment. Within each religious and non-religious ideas are explored, as well as there being the opportunity for the pupils to share their views. Towards the end of the autumn term, pupils will begin revision starting with Hinduism and Christianity. Skills:	https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/life-after-jail/ https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/prison-for-punishment/ https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/face-to-face/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbndy9a https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrfj382



		Analysis skills should now be embedded and continually practised while making links between a range of beliefs. Pupils get the opportunity to articulate their views and should feel comfortable questioning the views of others. There is a focus on justifying their ideas and arguments.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztbxg2p/watch/zb646rd https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztbxg2p/watch/zwv7vj6 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skmDHSqxhak https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Okooj9pZvAo&list=PLKt35O75wlr2ctda18EnE-GXykpk1zEgO
Assessments		There will be at least two each half term. There will be a mixture of exam style questions. Pupils will still be giving plans and structure strips to help with the essays but where possible they should try to see what they can do without these. There are still lots of opportunities for reflection and to improve their work. There is a move to practicing these in timed conditions too. There will be formal preparatory exams in the November and January. Autumn 1: Two x 12 mark questions plus weekly 4/6 mark questions. Autumn 2: Two x 12 mark questions plus weekly 4/6 mark questions.	
2	Themes Revision	Knowledge: Revision continues with a focus on the themes paper. This includes religion and life, relationships and families, revelation and arguments for the existence of God and	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z382xbk/articles/zrn6ywx https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytp7WKQYLN0



	Targeted revision of known weaknesses	crime and punishment. After this, the revision will target known weak points. These will be linked to areas that the prep exams have shown to be problematic and previous exam analysis. Pupils will also get the opportunity to stipulate which sections they would like to go over. Skills: Analysis skills should now be embedded and continually practised while making links between a range of beliefs. Pupils get the opportunity to articulate their views and should feel comfortable questioning the views of others. There is a continued focus on justifying their ideas and arguments. Use of technical language is also highlighted and practiced.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8kMjD7MC-g https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtD9a7editg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ck3lyV8EmUI
Assessments		There will be at least two each half term. There will be a mixture of exam style questions; 1,4,6 and 12 mark questions. Pupils will still be given plans and structure strips to help with the essays but where possible they should try to see what they can do without these. There are still lots of opportunities for reflection and improve their work. There is a move to practising these in timed conditions too. There will be a formal preparatory exam in January. Spring 1: Two x 12 mark questions plus weekly 4/6 mark questions. Spring 2: Two x 12 mark questions plus weekly 4/6 mark questions.	
3	Final Revisions and GCSE Exams	Knowledge: In the run up to the exams, pupil will focus on revision of all topics and work through as many past papers as	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skmDHSqxhak



	possible to help with confidence with exam questions and application of knowledge. Pupils will be given a range of revision materials including revision guides and online links, Skills: Exam technique, including timing will be solidified. This includes justification of arguments, as well as making links between belief and practices and explaining in detail; often looking at symbolism. There is also a focus on being able to identify the most important aspect of a belief, theory or idea.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Okooj9pZvAo&list=PLKt35O75wlr2ctda18EnE-GXykpklzEgO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Okooj9pZvAo&list=PLKt35O75wlr2ctda18EnE-GXykpklzEgO
Assessment	There will be at least two each half term. There will be a mixture of exam style questions; 1,4,6 and 12 mark questions. Pupils will still be given plans and structure strips to help with the essays but where possible they should try to see what they can do without these. There are still lots of opportunities for reflection and improve their work. There is a move to practising these in timed conditions too. These will be as and when the pupils need them.	