



The **Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form Religious Studies** curriculum aims to give pupils a broad understanding and depth of religious, philosophical, and ethical 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 that pupils 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, as well as leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Year 9

Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Theme B: Religion and Life	Knowledge: During this first half term of GCSE Religious Studies pupils begin by looking at a range of philosophical and ethical issues. They consider arguments for and against euthanasia and abortion, as well as exploring different attitudes to the use of animals and the environment. Pupils also get a chance to delve into discussion about science verses religion and the diverse ideas about the afterlife. These are all explored from a variety religious and non-religious ideas. Skills:	Link to specification: AQA Religious Studies GCSE GCSE Religious Studies The View from the Classroom - Euthanasia - TrueTube The View from the Classroom - Abortion - TrueTube Matters of life and death - BBC Teach



		Pupils continue from year 7 and 8 to develop their analytic and evaluative skills. There are lots of opportunities to develop their debating skills with a focus on justifying their ideas.	
Assessments		Pupil will do regular short answer exam style questions. These are worth 4 and 6 marks. They will also start to get to grips with the 12 mark essay style. In the first term these will be planned with the 'octopus' to help pupils include a variety of ideas and become familiar with the structure. This will then gradually progress to written full essays. Autumn 1: Two x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. Autumn 2: Two x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and key words will be provided to aid pupils with this.	
2	Religions: Hindu Beliefs	Knowledge: During the spring term pupils start to study the key beliefs in Hinduism. These include the concept of Brahman, as well the Trimurti, deities and avatars. They also get the opportunity to learn about and evaluate Hindu beliefs about the origins of the universe, as well as their aims of life and key virtues. Skills:	Brahman - The nature of God and existence in Hinduism - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize Atman - The nature of human life in Hinduism - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize Hinduism Explained



		There is a focus on decoding symbolism and recognising how beliefs influence action. Analysis is built on, as is the ability to explain accurately in detail.	
Assessments		Pupils will continue to practice the 4 and 6 mark answers. Colour coding these helps pupils to see the 'point and explanation' that is needed to get the marks. They will also complete 12 mark questions. These will be planned the lesson and pupils are given structure strips to help them to set out their answer. These have sentence starters on to help pupils start their paragraphs. The pupils will also have model answers to look over. Spring 1: Two x 12 mark essays: These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and key words will be provided to aid pupils with this. Spring 2: One x 12 mark essay: These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and key words will be provided to aid pupils with this.	
3	Theme A: Relationships and Families	Knowledge: During the final term of year 9 pupils will explore topics relating to marriage and divorce, as well as homosexuality, the use of contraception, sex outside of marriage and the role of women and equality. Skills: There will be the continued opportunity for debate. Pupils will also continue to develop their use of key	Christianity GCSE RS revision – Relationships and Families – AQA - BBC Bitesize Pilgrimage Moments: Discussing Homosexuality and Acceptance - TrueTube



		terminology and linking beliefs to justify their arguments. Analysis skills continue to be built on too.	
Assessment		Pupils will continue to practice the 4 and 6 mark answers. Colour coding these helps pupils to see the 'point and explanation' that is needed to get the marks. They will also complete 12 mark questions. These will be planned the lesson and pupils are given structure strips to help them to set out their answer. These have sentence starters on to help pupils start their paragraphs. The pupils will also have model answers to look over. Spring 1: One x 12 mark essay: These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and keys words will be provided to aid pupils with this. Spring 2: One x 12 mark essay: These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and keys words will be provided to aid pupils with this.	