



## Religious Studies FAQs

### Do you have to be religious to do well?

No. Religious education classrooms at QEGS are a diverse place encouraging discussion of a wide variety of beliefs. It is important to remember that you will be studying religious and non religious beliefs.

**How many exams are there?** Three exams. Two 1 hour each and one 2 hours paper.

**How many lessons are on the timetable?** In Year 10 you have 3 hours per fortnight and in Year 11 you have 3 hours per fortnight.

### Why does everyone take RS at QEGS?

RS is a vital subject in understanding the modern world and the people in it. The course provides key skills such as critical analysis, abstract thinking and discussion. These skills will also benefit and complement your other subjects. Finally RS has a fantastic record of results and many of our students go on to study Philosophy & Ethics at A Level and the GCSE is a great foundation.

### What are the exam questions like?

The exam is made up of 2, 5, 8 and 15 mark questions.

The 2 mark questions are based around key words and concepts e.g. **State what is meant by sin.**

The 8 mark questions require you to outline and explain knowledge in more depth e.g. **From two religions or two religious traditions, explain attitudes to free will.**

The 15 mark question is always based around a discussion and you need to argue from different perspectives e.g. **'Diwali is the most important Hindu Festival.'** Discuss

### What if I am an atheist?

You will be able to use your viewpoint to question and critically analyse the different beliefs. Also, you will also be exposed to non-religious attitudes in relation to contemporary issues. You will also get the chance to study why people hold religious or non-religious beliefs and the impact this might have on their lives as well as others.

### GCSE Student Perspective:

*'RS has taught me that there are many ways to approach any issue, that different people can believe the same things for completely different reasons, and that within religions, or even within denominations, there are often many contrasting beliefs and opinions. I've enjoyed hearing different beliefs, especially those commonly misrepresented in the media. I've also enjoyed being challenged with questions about controversial issues such as euthanasia and weapons of mass destruction, and weighing up arguments to discover what I believe about things as well as hearing others views.'*