

'Inspiring young minds to not only answer the questions but question the answers.'



WHY STUDY ISSUES & BELIEFS?

Issues and Beliefs allows the individual to question, criticise and form an opinion on, current issues that may affect you today or in the future. With over 65% of the world practising a religion, you will be studying two of the major Abrahamic faiths, Christianity and Islam.

Living in a multifaith world, this subject provides you with the knowledge and understanding to empathise, critically analyse and evaluate both religious and non-religious views on various issues. These issues range from crime and war, to the environment and medical ethics.

HOW WILL ISSUES & BELIEFS HELP ME? WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.

All these skills will help prepare you for further study in a range of subjects from Sociology and Psychology to Philosophy and Ethics. Issues and Beliefs will immerse you in a world of debates and discussions.

We will provide you with the essential speaking and listening skills that enable you to become a specialist in debating as your course is delivered by trained Debate Mate teachers. Higher order, critical thinking skills are explored through independent, paired and group work activities.

We foster in our students the ability to evaluate and come to clear conclusions, analyse and construct sound arguments and present ideas convincingly.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE? WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study various topics and themes for two exams in Year 11

Exam 1: Christian and Islamic Beliefs and practices
- the foundations of the faith and how religious people practice their faith in the 21st century.

Exam 2: Religion, relationships and families, Religion and Life (Medical and environmental ethics), Religion, Peace and Conflict and Religion, Crime and Punishment – These themes focus on social and political issues relevant to today's society and how it affects religious communities.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In Issues and Beliefs you will learn in various ways.

Apart from face to face teaching, you will engage in group work activities, debates, silent debates, peer presentations and peer teaching as well as being immersed in a classroom environment that focuses on both verbal and written opinions on a range of issues.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- ✓ **Component 1:** Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)
The study of religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices of two from:
Christianity
Islam
- ✓ Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.
- ✓ Each religion is marked out of 48.
- ✓ **Component 2:** Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)
Themes: Four themes from six religious, philosophical and ethical studies
Theme A: Relationships and families.
Theme B: Religion and life.
Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- ✓ Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.
- ✓ Each theme is marked out of 24.

HOW CAN I PROGRESS?

What do Ricky Gervais, Bill Clinton, and Martin Luther King have in common? They all have a degree in a religious or philosophy background.

Three very different careers but a plethora of opportunities awarded to them. Some of the most popular career paths a GCSE in Issues and Beliefs can you lead you towards are teaching and academia, the civil service, government, marketing, public sector, consultancy, social work, law, human rights and charity work, journalism and many more.