

Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS)

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of this Course is to develop knowledge and understanding of religious, moral and philosophical issues that affect the world today. Religious and non-religious perspectives will be explored. The Course will look at the questions they raise and the solutions or approaches they offer. Learners will have opportunities to reflect on these and on their own experience and views. This will be achieved through successful study of the Course Units.

The Course will require learners to study a **world religion in detail, understand contemporary moral issues** and responses, and study key aspects of **religious and philosophical questions**.

The Course will help learners develop an understanding of religious, moral and philosophical issues of relevance in the world today. Learners will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life.

The main aims of the Course are to enable learners to develop:

- the ability to critically analyse, reflect on and express reasoned views about religious, moral and philosophical questions and their impact
- a range of skills including investigating religious, moral and philosophical questions and responses, critical analysis, evaluation, and the ability to express detailed, reasoned and well-structured views
- in-depth factual and abstract knowledge and understanding of beliefs, practices and sources related to world religions
- in-depth factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of religious, moral and philosophical questions and responses to them

Areas covered are:

World Religions

In this unit you will do an in-depth study of one of the world's major religions. The department have chosen to study Buddhism - previous year groups have found this an engaging and thought provoking area of study.

Morality and Belief

In this unit you will do an in-depth study of a contemporary moral issue. You will also assess how philosophers, non-religious groups and religious groups would respond to the moral issue. The department have chosen to study 'Religion and Justice' (crime and punishment), however, if the class wanted to study another moral issue this would be considered.

Religious and Philosophical Questions

In this unit pupils will study the range of theories relating to the origins of life. Topics included in this section are: Evolution, The Big Bang Theory, creation stories and the compatibility between science and faith.

Entry to the course

National 5 RMPS grade A-C, although this is at the discretion of the school, and a strong pass at National 5 or Higher in English or Modern Studies is recommended.

Course Outline

The course (24 SCQF credit points) is made up of three units plus course assessment:

World Religion - Buddhism (6 SCQF credit points)

Morality and Belief – Religion and Justice (6 SCQF credit points)

Religious and Philosophical Questions – The Origins of Life (6 SCQF credit points)

Course Assessment (6 SCQF credit points)

Assessment

1. Course assessment:

Course assessment has two components:

Component 1 – question paper (final exam) – 60 marks

Component 2 – assignment – 30 marks

2. Unit assessment:

There will also be three unit assessments (one per unit - World Religion, Morality and Belief, Religious and Philosophical Questions)

Progression

Advanced Higher RMPS

Higher Philosophy

Education: HNC, HND, undergraduate degree at university

Employment:

Law, police, social work, teaching, youth work, human relations, civil service, charity administration, psychology and health care.

Further advice and information on these options is available from your Subject Teacher, Home Area Principal Teacher and Careers Adviser.