

## Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS)



### Purpose 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 included. The course will explore 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.

The Course will require a world religion in detail, a study of a moral issue including religious and non-religious responses and a study of a philosophical/Ultimate question. The Course will help learners develop an understanding of religious, moral and philosophical issues of relevance in the world today.

### Entry Requirements

Entry into Higher RMPS will usually require an A or B pass at National 5 RMPS. Candidates who have achieved a C at National 5 will be considered after discussions with their teacher.

Pupils who have not studied RMPS before will be expected to have achieved either an A or B pass in a similar related subject (such as English, Modern Studies or History) at Higher level.

### Topics Studied in Higher RMPS

There are 3 units covered in Higher RMPS. In addition pupils will develop evaluation and analysis skills throughout the course that are relevant to all three units. In addition pupils will develop RMPS skills throughout the course that are relevant to all three units.

Unit	Topic	Description of Topic
World Religion	Buddhism or Christianity	Pupils will learn the key beliefs and practices of the world religion and the significance they have on their followers

		and wider society.
Moral Issue	Medical Ethics - Genetic Engineering Euthanasia Assisted Suicide Organ Donation	Pupils will look at Religious Authority and Utilitarianism as perspectives on decision making and apply these to the topic of Medical Ethics. Pupils will evaluate/analyse the benefits/drawbacks of each on society.
Philosophical Question	Origins	Pupils will look at the arguments surrounding the creation of the Universe and Life and the impact these can have on people's beliefs about God. Pupils will evaluate/analyse religious and non-religious viewpoints on each theory.

### **Internal Assessments**

Pupils will complete internal assessments throughout the year as they progress throughout the course. These assessments are an essential requirement and pupils must pass the internal assessments before they sit the final exam. These assessments are designed to ensure pupils have the required knowledge and skills to sit the final exam.

<b>World Religion Assessment Outcomes</b>	
1.1	Explaining the meaning of a source related to a world religion today, in depth and with reference to relevant abstract ideas
1.2	Interpreting possible implications of the source's meaning for the lives of followers, in depth and with reference to relevant abstract ideas
1.3	Explaining one key belief and one key practice related to the source, in depth and with reference to relevant abstract ideas
1.4	Explaining how the source informs the belief and practice, in depth and with reference to relevant abstract ideas
1.5	Providing an in-depth comment on the significance of a religious belief, practice and source to people's lives today, with reference to different possible implications of the source

Morality and Belief Assessment Outcomes	
1.1	Explaining a contemporary moral question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
1.2	Explaining, a religious and a non-religious response to the question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.1	Explaining one possible consequence of a religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.2	Explaining a key strength and a key weakness of a religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.3	Expressing a detailed, reasoned and well-structured viewpoint on the question, explaining supporting evidence and responding to contrasting viewpoints

Religious and Philosophical Questions Assessment Outcomes	
1.1	Explaining a religious and philosophical question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
1.2	Explaining the significance of the question to people's lives, in depth
2.1	Explaining a religious response and a non-religious response to the question, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.2	Comparing the two responses, in depth and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.3	Presenting a detailed, reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the question and responses, explaining supporting evidence and responding to contrasting viewpoints

### **External Assessments**

Pupils will sit a final exam in the May exam diet. This exam will cover all 3 units as well as assessing the skills pupils have developed throughout the course.

Although every **unit** will be assessed there is no guarantee that every **topic** area studied will be assessed in the exam. However pupils must be prepared to answer a question on any topic covered.

Total marks for the Higher RMPs course is 90 marks. A breakdown of these marks is below.

Assessment/Marks	Breakdown
Exam Paper 60 marks 66%	World Religion - 20 Marks
	Morality and Belief - 20 Marks
	Religious and Philosophical Question - 20 marks
Assignment 30 marks 33%	Pupils will complete their added value assignment write up under exam conditions prior to the final examination.
Total Assessment Marks - 90 Marks - Graded A-D	

### **The Assignment**

The added value assignment is worth 30 marks, 33% of your final grade. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate your ability to apply your skills, knowledge and understanding that you have developed throughout the course, to research and reach a conclusion about a Religious, Moral or Philosophical topic or issue of your choice. This may be related to areas you have studied in class if you wish, but you are free to research any appropriate topic or issue.

In order to complete this assignment you will:

- **Research a question or issue**
- **Analyse the question or issue**
- **Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the question or issue**
- **Synthesize information in a structured manner**
- **Evaluate different viewpoints on the question or issue, at least one of which must be religious**
- **Present a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the question or issue**
- **Present a detailed explanation of supporting information and potential challenges/counter-arguments**

The assignment will be written up in an hour and a half under exam conditions. You are able to take a 250 word plan of processed information into the assignment to help you write up your assignment. This will include any statistics/graphs, quotes, key words etc. to help you write up your assignment.

### **Homework**

Pupils will be given regular homework on a weekly basis. Homework will consist of past paper questions, research tasks and revision. Pupils are expected to be revising their notes and completing past paper questions regularly in addition to their formal homework.

### **Revision Materials**

Pupils will each have access to Higher RMPS Revision Notes. These will be on loan from the RMPS department for the duration of their course and must be returned at the end of the year. This will provide pupils with a comprehensive set of course notes and past paper questions.

### **Progression**

Pupils progressing from Higher RMPS will be well suited to a Higher level subject in another humanities subject such as Philosophy, History, Geography or Modern Studies.

The study of Higher RMPS will provide pupils with the skills and knowledge to study RMPS at university level. More information on university courses related to RMPS are available from your RMPS teachers and in the RMPS classrooms.