

National 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

You do not have to have studied preference Religious Studies in S3 to take on National RMPS.

Although it is preferred to have studied Religious Studies in preference classes it is not a requirement as the necessary skills for the subject will have been covered to some extent in other humanities subjects.

Any pupil from S4-S6 is able to study National RMPS regardless of their previous experience in the subject.

Topics Studied in National RMPS

There are 3 units covered in National RMPS. In addition pupils will develop evaluation and analysis skills throughout the course that are relevant to all three units. Pupils at National 4 and 5 will study all the topics; however the assessment requirements will be altered depending on the level of the pupil.

Unit	Topic	Description of Topic
World Religion	Islam	Pupils will learn the key beliefs and practices of the Islamic religion and the significance they have on their followers and wider society.
Moral Issue	Capital Punishment	Pupils will look at Religious Authority and Utilitarianism as perspectives on decision making and apply these to the topics of Punishment and Capital Punishment. Pupils will evaluate/analyse the purpose and effectiveness of punishment and the debate surrounding capital punishment.
Philosophical Question	Evil and Suffering	Pupils will look at the existence of evil in society and the impact this can have on people's beliefs about God. Pupils will evaluate/analyse religious and non-religious viewpoints on Evil, its purpose and the concept of Freewill.

Internal Assessments

Pupils will sit internal assessments throughout the duration of the course. At National 5 level these assessment standards are judged as a pass or fail and must be passed in order for pupils to sit their final exam. At National 4 the internal assessment standards are judged at pass or fail and must be passed for pupils to achieve a National 4 award. At National 4 in addition to passing their assessment standards pupils must also sit an added value unit. This is a research project undertaken by the pupils with minimal support from the teacher, more information on the National 4 added value unit is included below. At National 4 and National 5

pupils will have the opportunity to re-sit the assessment standards once and will be given plenty of notice for re-assessment.

World Religions Assessment Standards	National 4	National 5
1.1	Pupils can describe the meaning of a source related to a key belief or practice of Islam.	Pupils can explain the meaning of a source related to a key belief or practice of Islam.
1.2	Pupil will make at least two relevant, factual points about a belief, and two relevant, factual points about a practice.	Pupils can explain one key belief and one key practice related to the source, in detail.
1.3	Pupil will make at least two relevant, factual points showing a link between the source, belief, and practice.	Pupils can explain how the source informs the belief and practice, in detail.
1.4	Pupils will comment on the significance of a religious belief, practice, and source to people's lives today	Pupils can provide a detailed comment on the significance of a religious belief, practice, and source to people's lives today.

Morality and Belief Assessment Standards	National 4	National 5
1.1	Pupils will describe a contemporary moral question, in straightforward terms.	Pupils will explain a contemporary moral question, in detail and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
1.2	Pupils will describe a religious and a non-religious response to the question, in straightforward terms.	Pupils will explain a religious and a non-religious response to the question, in detail and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.1	Pupils will describe one possible consequence of a	Pupils will explain one possible consequence of a

	religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in straightforward terms	religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in detail and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.2	Pupils will describe a possible strength and a possible weakness of a religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in straightforward terms	Pupils will explain a possible strength and a possible weakness of a religious and a non-religious response to a contemporary moral question, in detail and with reference to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.3	Pupils will give their own opinion on a viewpoint on the question and responses, with a straightforward justification	Pupils will express their own viewpoint on the question and responses, with reference to supporting evidence and contrasting viewpoints

Religious and Philosophical Questions Assessment Standards	National 4	National 5
1.1	Pupils can describe a religious and philosophical question, in straightforward terms	Pupils can explain a religious and philosophical question, in detail and referring to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
1.2	Pupils can describe the significance of the question to people's lives, in straightforward terms	Pupils can explain the significance of the question to people's lives, in detailed terms
2.1	Pupils can describe a religious response and a non-religious response to the question, in straightforward terms	Pupil can explain a religious response and a non-religious response to the question, in detail and referring to relevant

		theoretical or abstract ideas
2.2	Pupils can identify and describe a similarity or difference between the two responses, in straightforward terms	Pupils can compare and contrast the two responses, in detail and referring to relevant theoretical or abstract ideas
2.3	Pupils can present a conclusion on the question and responses, with a straightforward justification	Pupils can present a reasoned conclusion on the question and responses, with reference to supporting evidence and contrasting viewpoints

National 4 Added Value Unit

Pupils at National 4 level must complete an added value unit to achieve their award. The added value unit is designed to test the pupils' depth of knowledge and understanding of RMPS as well key skills. The added value unit is a research project on a religious/moral or philosophical topic of their choosing. Pupils are required to conduct research into their topic, through the use of a variety of sources. This will be completed with minimal teacher support and pupils must pass this element of the course in order to achieve their National 4 award.

External Assessments - National 5 ONLY

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.

In addition to completing their exam pupils must also submit an added value assignment write up. This added value is a research project on a religious/moral or philosophical topic of their choosing. Pupils are required to research their topic before writing up a report on their findings. This will be sent to the SQA for external assessments.

The assignment will be written up in an hour under exam conditions. You are able to take a 200 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.

Total marks for the National RMPS course is 80 marks. A breakdown of these marks is below.

Assessment/Marks	Breakdown
Exam Paper 60 marks 75%	World Religion - 20 Marks
	Morality and Belief - 20 Marks
	Religious and Philosophical Question - 20 marks
Assignment 20 marks 25%	Pupils will complete their added value assignment write up under exam conditions prior to the final examination.
Total Assessment Marks - 80 Marks - Graded A-D	

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 National 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 will a comprehensive set of course notes and past paper questions.

Progression

The natural progression from National 4 RMPS is into National 5 RMPS. Pupils will also be well equipped for study at National 4 level in other related subjects such as the humanities subjects.

Pupils who wish to progress onto Higher RMPS will be required to achieve an A or B at National 5 RMPS. Candidates who achieve a C may be considered after consultation with the teacher. Pupils who pass National 5 RMPS will be well equipped to progress onto other related subjects at National 5 level for example another humanities subject such as Geography, History or Modern Studies.