

Faith and Cultures

Course Overview

- **Exam Board** – AQA
- **Usual Age Range** – 14-16
- **Qualification** – ½ GCSE
- **Curriculum Time** – One 50-minute lesson per week
- **Assessment** – Faith and Cultures could lead to students taking a ½ GCSE and will therefore have formal assessments. Students will be informally assessed through their home learning, purple zone tasks and in-class progress checking.
- **Grading** – As per GCSE Boundaries
- **Full specification** – The full specification for the course can be found here <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-short-course-8061/specification-at-a-glance>

Curriculum Intent

The **intent** of the Faiths and Cultures curriculum is to give UTC students an opportunity to develop their understanding of how different faiths link to culture and will give them a chance to reflect on how the two separate elements are intrinsically linked together. The curriculum will also give students to articulate their thoughts about key topics and also a chance to understand the importance of other people's opinions. The intent is to ensure students have useful knowledge, understanding and skills that can be applied to real life scenarios in order that students feel confident to make safe, respectful and informed choices.

The further intent of the Curriculum is to enhance understanding of protected characteristics and Fundamental British Values, as well as contextual issues such as neurodiversity, gender identity and starting a new school.

Students are encouraged to develop their **love of reading** and **literacy skills** on this course by reading and analysing related texts and by engaging in structured classroom debate.

Study Tips

Faiths and Cultures could lead to a ½ GCSE in RE and therefore there will be times when students will need to revise and reflect on their learning. As with all revision a blend of revision is always key to being successful in your assessments.

- Use the quizzes that have been set for you as weekly home learning as these will support and underpin the key elements of each lesson.
- BBC Bitesize is a good resource to revise the key topics and remember that you need to access the AQA Exam board. Here is the link to the website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zb48q6f>
- In order to widen your key knowledge, you could also use SENECA learning as a way of interactive learning.
- This topic is also about being able to understand and rationalise opinions from another perspective and so talking to someone at home and asking their opinion on the topics being covered would also be a good way to revise and reflect on your learning.
- There are also revision books that you can purchase and we would be happy to direct you towards the most suitable ones for the course.

Curriculum Overview

The learning in Faith and Cultures is sequenced as follows.

Note: the full Curriculum Plans are available on request to info@nef.tynecoast.academy

Faith and Cultures will explore the following key areas throughout Years 10 and 11

Topic	Areas to be explored	
Islam and Christianity	As part of the course students will learn about both of these religions.	
	Islam The six articles of faith Tawhid (The Oneness of God) The nature of God Angels Predestination Akhirah (life after death) Authority Risalah The holy books The imamate in Shi's Islam	Christianity God Oneness of God Beliefs about Creation and Afterlife Salvation Incarnation Crucifixion Sin Salvation
Religion Peace and Conflict	Reasons for conflict Just War Theory WMD Religion and Peace Making Religion and Responses to victims of war Pacifism Protest	
Relationships and Family	Relationships Purpose of Families Roles of men and women Divorce Cohabitation Sexuality	