

Religious Studies - Key Stage 3 Level Descriptors

	Assessment Foci 1 – beliefs, teachings & sources	AF2 – celebration & ritual	AF3 – social & moral practices & way of life	AF4 – engagement with own and others’ beliefs & values	AF5 – engagement with questions of meaning & purpose
Level 8	Analyse a range of faiths, religions, beliefs and teachings, making reference to the texts used and how adherents interpret them	Use a comprehensive religious and philosophical vocabulary to analyse and interpret varied religious and spiritual expression	Show a coherent understanding of the impact of a belief system on the way of life of individuals, communities and societies	Critically analyse and justify own and others’ religious beliefs and world views	Synthesise a range of evidence, arguments, reflections and examples to justify their own views and ideas on questions of meaning and purpose
Level 7	Show a coherent understanding of faith, religion and belief using a variety of sources and evidence	Use a wide religious and philosophical vocabulary to show a coherent understanding of religious celebration	Critically evaluate the ways of life of religious groups with reference to their history and culture and show a coherent understanding of differences	Articulate their own critical response(s) to different religious beliefs and world views	Evaluate religious and nonreligious views and beliefs on questions of meaning and purpose
Level 6	Explain how sources and arguments are used in different ways by different traditions to provide answers to questions of religious belief, ultimate questions and ethical issues	Explain the significance for believers of different forms of religious and spiritual celebration	Explain how religious beliefs and teaching influence moral values and behaviour	Express insights into the reasons for their own and others’ beliefs and values and the challenges of belonging to a religion	Explain with reference to religious beliefs their own and others’ answers to questions of meaning
Level 5	Identify sources of religious belief and explain how distinctive religious beliefs arise	Describe and explain the meaning and purpose of a variety of forms of worship	Identify similarities and differences between peoples’ responses to social and moral issues because of their beliefs	Explain what beliefs and values inspire and influence them and others	Demonstrate how religious beliefs and teaching give some explanation of the purpose and meaning of human life
Level 4	Describe and show understanding of religious sources, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences; making links between them	Use religious terms to show an understanding of different liturgies	Show understanding of how religious belief shapes life	Show how own and others’ decisions are informed by beliefs and values	Engage with and respond to questions of life in the light of religious teaching
Level 3	Make links between religious stories and beliefs	Use a developing religious vocabulary to give reasons for religious actions and symbols	Give reasons for certain actions by believers	Make links to show how feelings and beliefs affect their behaviour and that of others	Compare their own and other people’s ideas about questions that are difficult to answer

Religious Studies - Key Stage 4 Grade Descriptors

	Assessment Foci 1 - Knowledge	AF2 - Understanding	AF3 - Evaluation
Grade A*	Exceptional knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	Exceptional understanding of the Relevance and application of religion. The work is presented in a clear, coherent manner.	The ability to fluently debate the complexity of moral issues and to express valid opinions about different points of view well supported by evidence and argument. Clear evidence of original thought
Grade A	Outstanding knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	An outstanding understanding of the relevance and application of religion. The work is presented in a clear, coherent manner.	The ability to debate the complexity of moral issues and to express valid opinions about different points of view well supported by evidence and argument
Grade B	Good knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	A thorough understanding of the relevance and application of religion. The work is presented in a clear, coherent manner.	The ability to recognise the complexity of issues raised and to express valid opinions about different points of view well supported by evidence and argument
Grade C	Reasonable knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	A mature level of understanding of the relevance and application of religion	The ability to recognise some of the significance of an issue raised. The clear expression of an opinion directly related to it supported with some use of evidence and argument. An awareness of the existence of different opinions.
Grade D	Attempts to use knowledge of religious belief and practice well, but work lacks detail.	A reasonable level of understanding of the relevance and application of religion; but some key aspects are missed.	The ability to recognise some of the significance of an issue raised. Work is one sided and does not recognise the variety of opinions held within a religious community.
Grade E	Basic knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	Basic understanding of the relevance and application of religion. Basic ability to organise work or present an argument.	Can offer, and develop basic arguments to support, an opinion on moral issues.
Grade F	Limited knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	Limited understanding of the relevance and application of religion. Limited ability to organise work or present an argument.	Can offer, and develop limited arguments to support, an opinion on moral issues.
Grade G	Very limited knowledge of religious belief and practice and religious beliefs on moral issues	Very limited understanding of the relevance and application of religion. Limited ability to organise work or present an argument.	Simple one sided views expressed on moral issues.

Religious Studies - Key Stage 5 Grade Descriptors

	Assessment Foci 1 – Knowledge and understanding	AF2 - Evaluation
Grade A*		
Grade A	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) selection of accurate and relevant material b) explanation are clearly relevant features or key ideas, supported by examples and/or sources of evidence c) use accurately a range of technical language and terminology d) familiar with issues raised by relevant scholars, or a variety of views, where appropriate. 	<p>Evidence of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) construction of coherent and well-organised arguments supported by examples and/or sources of evidence b) evaluates strengths and weaknesses of the arguments c) use of accurate and fluent expression.
Grade B	Shows an good understanding of relevant features or key ideas, supported by good examples and/or sources of evidence. Accurate use of technical language and terminology. Scholars views understood well and used to support views.	<p>Evidence of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) construction of largely coherent and well-organised arguments supported by examples and/or sources of evidence b) identifies strengths and weaknesses of the argument c) use of accurate and fluent expression.
Grade C	Shows an reasonable understanding of relevant features or key ideas, supported by good examples and/or sources of evidence. Accurate use of technical language and terminology	<p>Work demonstrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) clear organisation and/or coherence b) answers with argument, justification or evaluation c) use language and expression is good.
Grade D	Shows an acceptable understanding of relevant features or key ideas, supported by some examples and/or sources of evidence. Mainly accurate use of technical language and terminology	<p>Work demonstrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) some organisation and/or limited coherence b) offer descriptive answers with some argument, justification or evaluation c) use language and expression reasonable.
Grade E	<p>Selection is limited but relevant material.</p> <p>Shows basic understanding of relevant features or key ideas, supported by occasional examples and/or sources of evidence. Limited but mainly accurate use of technical language and terminology</p>	<p>Work demonstrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) minimal organisation and/or limited coherence b) offer mainly descriptive answers with little argument, justification or evaluation c) use language and expression that lacks precision.