



CHAILEY SCHOOL

A Specialist Language and Humanities College
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Key MA (Ed)

12th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a change of specification for the Beliefs and Ethics GCSE course.

As you may be aware, the new course was introduced when the current Year 11s began Year 9. At this time the specifications had not been finalised and it was not until the end of that academic year that AQA finally published their curriculum and resources. Unfortunately Edexcel were still not accredited at this point so I made the decision to opt for the AQA Religious Studies A specification.

However, the release of the Edexcel Religious Studies B specification showed itself to be almost identical, but with an easier to follow structure and clearer exam questions. All of the content that has been studied so far by Year 11 and Year 10 is still entirely relevant, and the exam questions follow an almost identical structure to those of the AQA course, so this should not have any detrimental effects on their achievement.

The differences between the courses mean that when they come to revise and take exams, students will only need to know the views of one religion for each ethical issue instead of several. For example, in the topic on Capital Punishment, they only need to know Muslim and non-religious views, whereas in the AQA specification they would need to know the views of at least two different religions as well as non-religious ones.

Below I have detailed the exact topics they are covering to clear up any confusion. In the lead up to the trial exams and the real exams in May they will be provided with revision material but below is a link to the revision guides I would recommend buying. If you have already purchased revision guides for the AQA specification please tell your child to hand them in to me and I will swap them for a revision guide for the Edexcel course.

For the Year 11 trial exam before Christmas, students will need to revise Muslim Beliefs (which is the topic they are currently finishing) and Crime and Punishment through Islam (which they will have completed in the lead up to the exams week).





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EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) RELIGIOUS STUDIES - Specification B

Covering:

Area of Study 1 - Religion and Ethics through Christianity

This covers Christian Beliefs, Marriage and family, Living the Christian Life and Matters of Life and death and is the same as the list of topics covered by AQA although with slightly different titles.

Area of Study 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam

This covers Muslim Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Muslim Life and Peace and Conflict, Again, these topics are the same as those we would have covered with AQA but called slightly different names.

Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B, Christianity & Islam Revision Guide

- ISBN-10: 1292148829
- ISBN-13: 978-1292148823

Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B, Christianity & Islam Revision Workbook:

- ISBN-10: 1292148810
- ISBN-13: 978-1292148816

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change.

Yours faithfully

Miss R Sinclair

Faculty Team Leader Humanities

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