

Religious Studies KS4

How do we assess at KS4?

All assessments at KS4 are marked according to GCSE descriptors from the exam boards. Tasks may be short questions that check knowledge and recall, or longer questions assessing their ability to evaluate an issue. Shorter questions are marked in class by the students, with marking guidelines to help. Both teachers give guidance on a lesson by lesson basis.

Each half term students are formally assessed by their teachers for both topics of the GCSE. The new GCSE course covers Christianity and Islam, whilst year 11 are completing the old GCSE (Christian Ethics and Buddhism). Teachers then meet to compare data and students receive an overall grade. Assessments may be based on exam questions or specific tasks/projects.

In Year 10 students sit an exam for each topic, usually in June. These are then graded according to exam descriptors, and this forms the point of guidance for further progress. Students may also complete an extended personal project based on their current attainment; the project is designed to focus on specific areas of difficulty, or to stretch and challenge the more able.

In Year 11 students sit a Trial Exam at the end of the autumn term; this is assessed using exam criteria and is used to set specific targets for the spring term.

How do we know students engage with feedback?

Through the regular use of MRI (My Response Is) pen work e.g. follow-up tasks and corrections/improvements to support progressive learning. A progress tracker in the books contains grade descriptors and a termly guide to their attainment.

How is feedback monitored?

All 3 teachers work closely in sharing good practice. Miss Maile marks for the exam board and has shared her training with all members of the department. All data catches involve shared data and discussion about any disparity in performance between the two topics.

What does assessment look like to a student?

Each lesson involves mini-assessments, using past paper questions to check knowledge and understanding. Students know whether they have been successful or not and can focus on weaker areas in the next lesson.

1. In which month is Sangha Day? (1)
Late February or early March
2. Who or what is celebrated on Dhamma Day? (1)
The teachings of the Buddha
3. Give 2 examples of things that people might do on Wesak. (2) **make lanterns/ release birds/go to temple/ make offerings/light candles/bathe the Buddha image**
4. What specific offering is made during Kathina? (1)
Material to make a robe
5. When is New Year celebrated in Tibet? What is it called? (2) **February; Losar**
6. How often do uposatha days occur each month? (1)
Twice a month (Total = 8 marks)

