

## Higher RMPS

The Higher RMPS course is offered in S5&6. Here pupils can build on their work in National 5 and/or Core classes as they explore further Religion, Morality and Philosophy.

Pupils study **three** Parts of the course concurrently.

The following requirements are taken from the Course Assessment Specification for Higher RMPS. These describe the content, and skills covered in the course.

### 1. World Religion

In each of the six major world religions, the beliefs and practices are closely related and interconnected.

Candidates:

- show in-depth knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices
- analyse the relationship between different religious beliefs; the relationship between religious beliefs and practices; and the purpose of living according to religious beliefs and practices
- evaluate the significance, relevance and impact of religious beliefs and practices

Candidates do not need to learn specific sources for each religious belief and practice. However, they can use examples of sources that inform beliefs and practices where appropriate. Candidates may answer questions in the context of a denomination or tradition within the religion chosen for study. This includes knowledge and understanding of differences in practices and related beliefs within the religion or tradition studied.

## **Part A: Buddhism**

### **Beliefs**

- Three Marks of Existence: anicca; anatta; dukkha
- nature of human beings: tanha; Three Root Poisons; kamma
- beliefs about the Buddha
- samsara; nibbana

### **Practices**

- living according to the Eightfold Path
- Five Precepts; sangha
- meditation; devotion

## **2. Morality and Belief**

### **Candidates:**

- show in-depth knowledge and understanding of moral issues
- analyse religious and non-religious responses to moral issues
- evaluate religious and non-religious responses to moral issues

## **Part A: Religion and Justice**

### **Causes of crime**

- environmental influences
- psychological factors

### **Purposes of punishment**

- reformation
- retribution
- protection
- deterrence

### **Responses to crime**

- custodial sentences
- non-custodial sentences
- capital punishment

### 3. Religious and Philosophical Questions

Candidates:

- show in-depth knowledge and understanding of the question and responses, including religious and non-religious responses
- apply the skills of analysis and evaluation to the question and responses
- present a reasoned conclusion to the question

Each topic contains ideas and arguments which may feature in both religious and non-religious responses.

#### Part A: Origins

##### Was the universe and life created?

- How does religion explain the origins of the universe and of life?
- What evidence does religion use to support these explanations?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of evidence/explanations?
- How does science explain the origins of the universe and of life?
- What evidence does science use to support these explanations?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of evidence/explanations?
- Can religious and scientific views on origins be compatible?

Pupils studying for a course qualification in RMPS are also required to complete an **Assignment**. They are expected to propose an issue for study, research a range of viewpoints on the issue and present a well-justified conclusion. The Research stage is conducted in school and through homework and the final report is written up under exam conditions.