

RMPS Option Class

RMPS is offered on the option form at N4/5 levels, however the department welcomes a wide range of pupils with the aim of helping each to meet their potential in the course and in their personal development.

The course was generated departmentally and each pupil is provided with folders and class notes with tasks and homework fully incorporated.

The S3 course draws together BGE Outcomes and Experiences at levels 3 and 4, and aspects of the certificated courses in RMPS. In S4 we focus on the requirements of the Revised National Qualification.

Course Content

The course comprises 3 Parts:

Section 1: World Religion

Part 3 - Hinduism

We study the most ancient living major religion in the world today - Hinduism.

Dating back at least 4000 years, Hinduism offers learners an opportunity to explore philosophical ideas about time, space and reality, as well as pressing questions about how people should relate to each other in society.

It's a religion rich in ideas and colourful legends, and through these we find out what Hindus believe about human beings, the supreme reality and the cycle of life.

We ask about the impact of Hindu belief and practice in the world today, and whether they are helpful for people trying to make sense of life.

Required content:

- ◆ Nature of God
- ◆ Atman (the eternal soul)
- ◆ Avidya (ignorance)
- ◆ Krishna as an avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu
- ◆ Stories about Krishna
- ◆ Krishna and Arjuna

- ◆ Karma
- ◆ Samsara (the reincarnation cycle)
- ◆ Moksha (the ultimate goal of liberation)
- ◆ Dharma (the universal truth about life and how to live)
- ◆ Three Margas (paths to liberation)
- ◆ Worship

Section 2: Morality and Belief

Part 4 - Morality, Medicine and the Human Body

In this unit the focus is ethical dilemmas encountered in modern medical science, with a particular focus on the nature and value of human life.

We start with a discussion of ideas like "sanctity of life" and "bodily autonomy". Who gets to decide if we live or die?

We then explore issues in embryo research, from the use of IVF to cloning and genetic selection. What should be allowed? What should be seen as unethical? Pupils will have a chance to analyse and evaluate a range of religious and non-religious responses to these kinds of questions.

We then consider the moral issues raised by care for the dying. Could it ever be right to help a suffering person to die?

Mandatory content:

- ◆ the value of life: right to life, right to die, sanctity of life, personal autonomy
- ◆ use of embryos: reproductive, research, therapeutic
- ◆ end-of-life care: palliative, hospice
- ◆ euthanasia and assisted dying: voluntary euthanasia, non-voluntary euthanasia, assisted dying provided by individuals or organisations

Section 3: Religious & Philosophical Questions

Part 3 - The Problem of Evil and Suffering

In this part we explore questions raised by the problem of evil and suffering, and some answers proposed by religion and philosophy.

Is it possible to believe in a good God in the face of suffering and evil? Might it have a purpose? What's the best way to respond to suffering and evil when we encounter it in the world?

Mandatory content:

- ◆ types of suffering and evil
- ◆ explanations of suffering and evil
 - free will and responsibility
 - determinism
 - natural causes
 - role of *God*
- ◆ problems for beliefs about *God*
 - nature of *God*
 - challenge to the nature of *God*
 - challenge to the existence of *God*
 - theodicies

The three parts are sub-divided into smaller units of work, allowing learners to range between different aspects of the content in the course of the year.

Pupils studying for a course qualification in RMPS will also be required to complete an Assignment during S4. They will be expected to select an issue for study, research information and viewpoints on the issue and present a justified conclusion. At N4 the Assignment (AVU) is assessed internally, but at N5 the write-up is carried out under controlled conditions, and submitted to SQA for marking.

Course Assessment Structure

Question paper - 80 marks

The question paper gives candidates an opportunity to demonstrate application of the following skills and breadth of knowledge and understanding from across the course:

- ◆ analysing religious, moral and philosophical questions
- ◆ presenting detailed and reasoned views

The question paper has 80 marks out of a total of 100 marks. The question paper is therefore worth 80% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It has a greater emphasis on the assessment of knowledge and understanding than the assignment, with 44 of the marks being awarded for the demonstration of knowledge and understanding.

The remaining 36 marks are awarded for the demonstration of skills.

The question paper has three sections and candidates answer on one part from each. Each part has a minimum of 26 and a maximum of 27 marks available. There are 4-6 questions in each part, worth between 3-8 marks per question.

Candidates have 2hrs 20 minutes in which to complete the Question Paper.

Assignment - 20 marks

The assignment allows candidates to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a chosen religious, moral or philosophical question:

- ◆ identifying an appropriate religious, moral or philosophical issue for study, about which there are alternative or different points of view
- ◆ commenting on the significance or impact of the issue
- ◆ using sources of information
- ◆ drawing on knowledge and understanding to explain and analyse the issue and viewpoints
- ◆ drawing and presenting a detailed and reasoned conclusion on the issue

The assignment has 20 marks out of a total of 100 marks. The assignment is therefore worth 20% of the overall marks for the course assessment. 4 marks are awarded for Knowledge and Understanding and the 14 remaining marks cover skills.

Following a period of research and planning, candidates write a report on their findings under controlled conditions, with access only to a 200 word resource sheet/plan. The write-up is completed in school in a single sitting lasting 1 hour.