

January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Religious Studies Mock Exam 2

As you may already be aware, your child will be taking a second GCSE mock exam in Religious Studies this year, on Monday 20 February. This mock exam will be 50 minutes in exam venues and conditions, and will only include questions on Theme B: Religion and Life and Theme E: Crime and Punishment.

Their actual (final) GCSE exams will take place during the formal exam season in the summer and we can now confirm that Paper 1: Christianity and Islam, is on Monday 15 May and Paper 2: Thematic Studies, is on Tuesday 23 May.

As a department, we have again provided each student with a [Revision Navigator](#), [PLC](#), and [countdown plan](#). These have been shared through google classroom with the students. We have found in the past that students who perform best are those whose parents have an understanding of [good revision strategies](#) in RS and who support this revision at home. We would encourage 3-4 hours per week of revision leading up to the mocks in addition to any homework or classwork. This is roughly 30 minutes per day.

This second mock exam is a chance for students to use their experience from their first to make progress. The feedback that was given to many students and parents in our recent parents' evening was that practising exam style questions as part of their revision is what will have the biggest impact on their progress.

Below are some ways that you can support your child at home to ensure that their revision is effective:

1. Insist on a social media blackout during revision time. Research shows that students who revise without smartphones near them benefit from their revision more.
2. Encourage them to revise short topic areas frequently, rather than cramming in the final week. Use the [countdown plan](#) to help organise this.
3. Check they are using the countdown plan and updating it so that they know what they have already revised and what they have left to cover.
4. Encourage them to test their knowledge by answering exam style questions (these can be found on the revision navigator). They need to be able to apply their knowledge to the exam.
5. Encourage them to seek feedback from their teachers. They get lots of feedback on exams and writing techniques in class, but if they would like more, they need to be proactive in seeking it out.

6. Finally, help them be clear on the exam dates and details. This will be different for the exams in the summer and information will be sent out at a later date regarding these exams.

I hope this is of use to you and your child as they prepare for their first mock GCSE exam. If you have any questions, please email your child's RS teacher and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Johnson', enclosed within a faint, hand-drawn oval.

Miss B Johnson
Religious Studies Subject Leader
bjohnson@theweald.org.uk