

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Information pack for course
starting **October 2026**

MAY 2026

WELCOME

- What is the GCSE offering?
- How the course works
- Thoughts from current students and teachers
- Q&A

CHINMAYA MISSION



350+

Locations Worldwide



250+

Swamins & Brahmacharins



1000+

Spiritual Study Forums



1000+

Publications



Chinmaya Vibhooti

Chinmaya Vision Centre



Chinmaya Vishwa
Vidyapeeth

Chinmaya University



CORD

Rural Development Programme



CIF

Chinmaya International
Foundation



Vedanta Institutes

Residential Vedanta Courses



1200+

Rural Communities Empowered



100+

Educational Institutions



6+

Healthcare Facilities

WHAT ARE WE OFFERING?

- GCSE Religious Studies (Hinduism and Sikhism)
- AQA exam board
- Chinmaya Academy's 4th cohort - October 2026
- Students starting years 9 or 10 in September 2026

WHY THIS GCSE?

- An offering of academic education complemented with spiritual knowledge
- Most schools do not offer the Hinduism-Sikhism combination
- Your child can opt out of the mandatory GCSE in their school

Cohort 1 (exams sat in May 2025)

- Cohort 1 = 5 students
- Results: 2 x grade 9, 2 x grade 8, 1 x grade 6*
- Cohort 2 started Sept 2024 = larger group
- Cohort 3 started Sept 2025 – 3 locations

*2 students (who scored 8 each) learned Hinduism through Chinmaya Academy and mixed with Christianity in their own school

COURSE DETAILS

- Intake: 15 students in each location
 - Chinmaya Kirti (Hendon) = 6 hours x 1 Sunday a month
 - Sutton & Gloucester: 3 hours x 2 Sundays per month
- Exams sat at local venues in May / June 2028
- 2 teachers for each cohort

TEACHING DELIVERY

Face to face classes, term-time only

Timetable:

- Hendon: Usually 2nd Sunday of each month, the day will run from 10am-4pm (inclusive of refreshments breaks)
- Sutton/Gloucester: Usually 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month; the day will run from 9.30am-1pm (inclusive of refreshments breaks)

Email communication with students only (NO WhatsApp permitted)

Course will include practical sessions comprising:

- Group puja
- External speakers
- Visits to Mandir and Gurudwara

SYLLABUS

Paper 1 – beliefs, teachings and practices

- Hinduism – e.g. the concept of Atman, Diwali & Holi, pilgrimage, Yoga, and cow protection
- Sikhism – e.g. the Mool Mantra, Sewa, the role of the sangat, life in the Gurdwara, and Vaisakhi

SYLLABUS

Paper 2 – thematic studies (4 of 6 are taught and assessed)

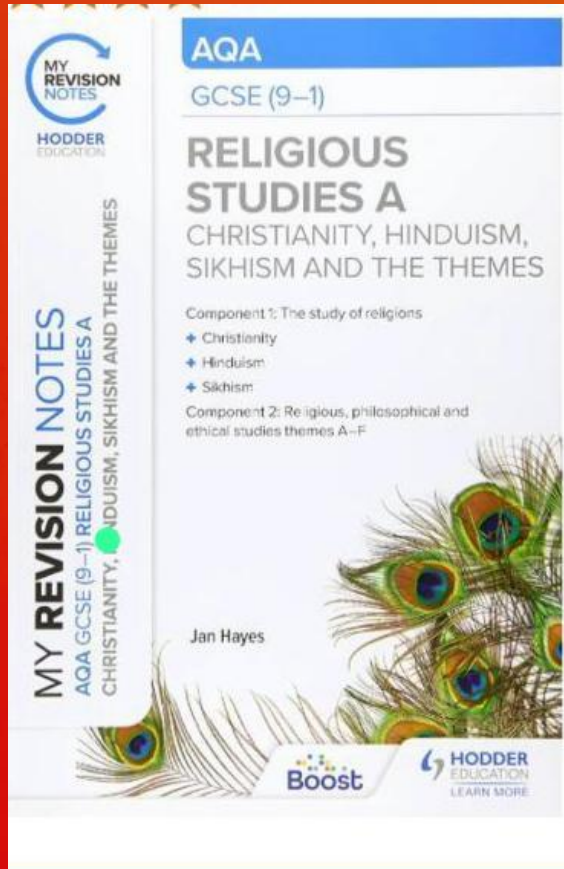
- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights and social justice

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT

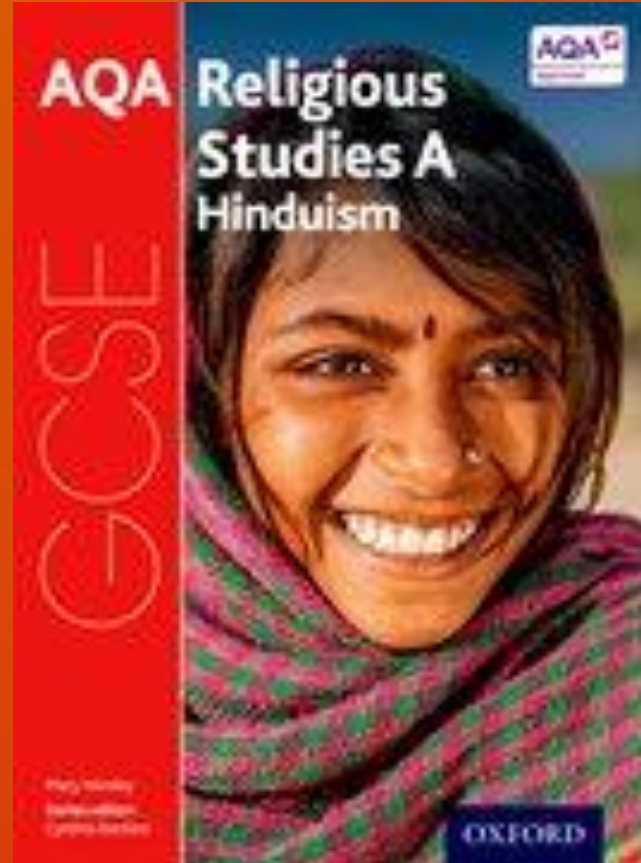
- Homework
- Revision sessions (closer to the exam)
- Help with exam prep
- 2 x parents / teacher conference sessions via zoom to discuss individual progress of the student

AQA BOARD TEXTBOOKS

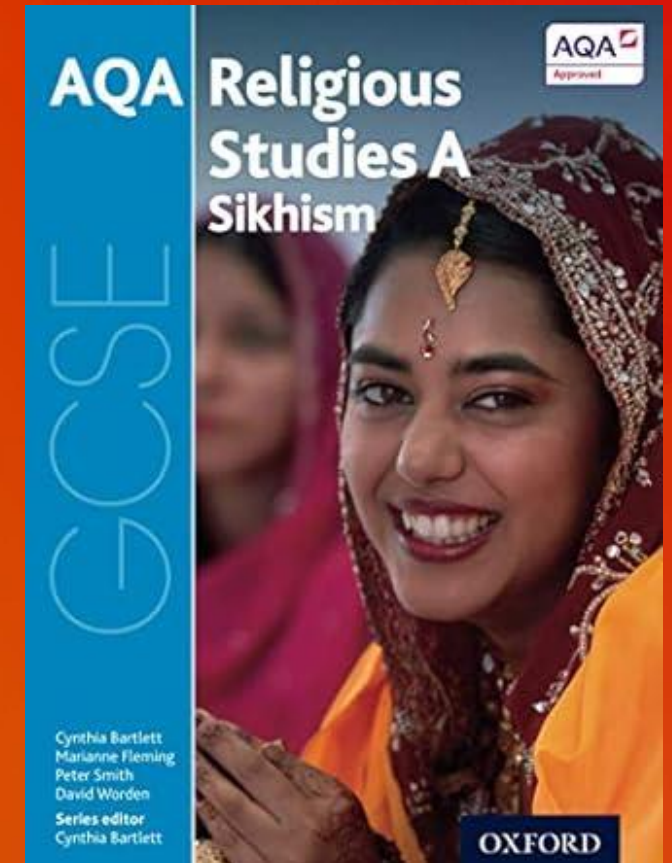
Provided



Optional



Optional



NEXT STEPS

Course cost:

- £155 / term per student (6 terms)
- Reduced to £125 / term for those in our Junior CHYK programme

Costs will NOT rise through this course

Includes exam registration cost, required textbook and revision support. Parents can buy the other two books if they wish

Registration / payment by 27 September 2026, or earlier if capacity is reached

THANK YOU

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