



Department Staffing

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Our Aims

We want to share our passion for the world around us and the past that has helped to shape it. Students are encouraged to investigate the world that they live in. Students are challenged to think critically about peoples and places from around the globe and the past. We want students to develop their own strong and supported opinions on why the world is like it is. It is important to us that our students are able to handle evidence to explain our planet and the journey people have been on.

Department Information

The Humanities department currently consists of eight dedicated members of staff. The staff have a depth of experience so all specialisms are well represented. Within the department staff are skilled in the delivery of Geography, History, Religious Education.

Key Stage 3 – Geography

The Geography department is committed to making students understand the world around them, whilst making the study of Geography relevant and interesting. The department is keen to use fieldwork, case studies, debate and evidence analysis to promote enthusiasm and learning in the subject. Students are challenged with interesting topics such as natural hazards and urban redevelopment. A key focus for the department is the local geography in and around Banbury. Our mission is to get the students to understand the interaction between human and physical processes in the local area.

Students broadly follow the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. Students: are immersed in map skills, are challenged to analyse places; examine geographical evidence and investigate human and physical processes. Students do this looking at key topics such as Rivers and Coasts, Resource Management, Globalisation and Urbanisation.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	Local Places: Map Skills	Local Places: Settling Banbury	Fantastic Places: Asia And Europe	Fantastic Places: Asia And Europe	Powerful Processes: Hydrology	Powerful Processes: Coasts
8	Moving Towards The Modern Age: Globalisation	Moving Towards The Modern Age: Urbanisation	Hazards: Geological Timescale	Hazards: Tectonics	Settlement and Crime	Settlement and Crime
9	Population And Migration	Resource Management: The Geography Of Food	Shaping The Land: Glaciation	Shaping The Land: Glaciation	Geographical Skills:	Geographical Skills:

Home Learning

Home learning is set around our knowledge organisers. Tasks are focussed on preparing students for upcoming lessons or to consolidate key learning from the subject. Usually these are used to prepare

students for their assessments. Homework's are saved in class books and feedback is offered by staff.

Key Stage 4- Geography

GCSE Geography is a vital qualification to a student in terms of how they perceive the world around them. It is a subject that is relevant, current and hands on. Students experience strands of both physical and human Geography as well as a fieldwork study, which in this year's case involved a fieldwork investigation to Bicester Village

At North Oxfordshire Academy our aim is to encourage students to strive to their full potential in this field with support and encouragement from a team of specialists who share a united passion in their subject area. Students are taught skills such as data interpretation (of both primary and secondary sources), map skills as well as how to apply geographical knowledge to the world socially, environmentally, economically and politically.

Currently the cohort undertakes the AQA B syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-b-9035>

Students follow three units throughout the duration of the course; Unit 1 Managing places in the 21st century, Unit 2 Hostile World and Unit 3 Investigating the Shrinking World. Students will also complete two controlled assessment pieces over the duration of the course which comprises of 25% of the overall Geography GCSE result. The assignment is currently based on a study of how natural processes shape the coastline and investigating water as a precious resource. All examinations are completed in the summer exam period at the end of year 11.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline) Geography Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
11	Controlled Assessment	Controlled Assessment	Investigating The Shrinking World (Tourism)	Investigating The Shrinking World (Tourism)	Revision For All Modules And Exam.	

Home Learning

The department set home learning on a weekly basis. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students use their knowledge organisers to secure key understanding. Students are expected to complete the

homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes. Also a GCSE Bitesize link has been provided. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects.

To aid with home learning and exam preparation exam questions completed in class are a primary focus for the student's development and understanding of the structure for the terminal GCSE exam ensuring that students fulfil their potential.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-b-9035/past-papers-and-markschemes>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>

Key Stage 5 – Geography

GCSE Geography is a vital qualification to a student in terms of how they perceive the world around them. It is a subject that is relevant, current and hands on. Students experience strands of both physical and human Geography.

At North Oxfordshire Academy our aim is to encourage students to strive to their full potential in this field with support and encouragement from a team of specialists who share a united passion in their subject area. The A Level course focuses largely on global issues. The course provides students with an excellent opportunity to build on their knowledge and skills from GCSE Geography though this is not essential for A Level study. A Level Geography gives students a good grounding for a higher education and can lead to employment in areas such as the Media, Law, Research, Journalism and the Government.

Currently the cohort undertakes the Edexcel syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here: Students study the topics of tectonic processes, coasts and globalisation.

Key Stage 5 Programme of study (Timeline) Geography Key Stage 5 Timeline

Home Learning

The department sets KS5 homework at least twice per week. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS5 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes.

To aid with home learning and exam preparation exam questions completed in class are a primary focus for the student's development and understanding of the structure for the terminal exam ensuring that students fulfil their potential.

Specification

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

Key Stage 3 – History

At North Oxfordshire Academy the aim is to prepare students for success in History. A variety of teaching methods are used to sustain high levels of engagement and excellent progress. Students broadly follow United Learning Curriculum. Within this, students look at the change and development of British History from 1066 to the modern era. Students will also look at key benchmark events from around the world such as the Holocaust and Slavery and Civil Rights in America.

The focus of the teaching and learning is on key historical concepts such as causation, evidence handling, interpretations and change over time. The emphasis of this is to support students to form their strong opinions on what they are learning. Students are enabled to communicate this in a supported and sustained way, and develop their ideas, knowledge and understanding in preparation for GCSE.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	The Medieval Period; Claimants to the Throne	The Medieval Period; William the Conqueror	The Medieval Period; The Church	The Medieval Period; British Social History	The Medieval Period; The Home Nations	Into the Renaissance
8	The Industrial Revolution	Age Of Empire	The Causes Of World War One	World War One And The British Soldier	Inter War Britain	World War Two And Britain
9	Slavery: Britain To America	The Struggle For Civil Rights	The Holocaust	Who Is Responsible For The Holocaust	The development of British Politics	The development of British Politics

Home Learning

The department sets one piece of homework per week. Tasks are focussed on preparing students for upcoming lessons or to consolidate key learning from the subject. Students are given knowledge organisers to support the development of their understanding. Usually these are used to prepare

students for their assessments. Homework's are saved in class books and feedback is offered by staff.

Key Stage 4- History

GCSE History is an important qualification to a student's profile. The course is highly popular at GCSE with several parallel classes running at Key Stage 4. Year 11 students are currently completing their study of Oxford Castle as well as studying Medicine Through Time. At North Oxfordshire Academy we aim to share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject as well as push students to achieve their potential within the subject. Students are exposed to historical skills such as interpretation, change and continuity and source handling. Currently the cohort undertake the AQA History syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-W-9140-SP.PDF>

Our current year 10s have started the new GCSE specification. The link to this can be found below

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline) History Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
10 New GCSE Spec	Germany 1890 and Weimar Germany	The Rise Of Hitler	Hitler's Germany	International Relations 1918-1939	International Relations 1918-1939	International Relations 1918-1939
11 Current Year group	Controlled Assessment: Oxford Prison	Medicine Thought Time; The Ancient Period	Medicine Thought Time; The Dark Ages	Medicine Through Time; Into The Modern Era and Germany Revision	Revision And Exam Sessions.	

Home Learning

The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are given a knowledge organiser to help develop their understanding of the subject. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past

examination papers and mark schemes. Also a GCSE Bitesize link has been provided. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes: *FOR YEAR 11 ONLY*

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-a-9140/past-papers-and-markschemes>

Please note- only look at the Medicine and Germany Papers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/>

For Year 10 ONLY

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/assessment-resources>

History Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

A Level History contains two exciting modern History units. In the AS year students will examine the course of British politics from 1930-1997. The course allows students to analyse the changes in the political fortunes of the Conservatives and the Labour party. It gives students a great grounding in understanding the British political landscape today. In the AS year students also study the Cold War in South East Asia. Students deal with the political ideologies of the Cold War and analyse the role of the USSR and the United States in key events such as the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In the two units students develop their ability to present historical explanations and their source handling skills. A key difference from GCSE is the focus on interpretations in History. This is a theme that continues into A2. Students complete one 4000 word investigation. This largely focuses on a topic chosen by the student. This gives students an exciting opportunity to research and analyse a period of history that interests them. In A2 student also study an examination unit looking the development Tudor Rebellion and Crisis. This will assess historical interpretations.

How you will study on the course

You will study the following units over the process of A2 History. Please use the links below for the specification to see further information.

Y143: British History Period Studies: British Politics: 1951-1994: Option B

Y253: European and World History Enquiries: The Cold War and South East Asia: Option B

Y300: Historical Investigation

Y306 Tudor Rebellion and Disorder

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-ah505.pdf>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

Students are expected to complete a significant amount of independent research. It is essentially that students use home learning to carry out background reading to the topics. The course places a high expectation of depth of knowledge and successful students show a high level of reading around the subject. This shows in their assessment and exam work. Students are supported and directed in this by their class teacher. Each unit sets significant amounts of background reading each week. These are set to closely match the teaching in following lessons. Students are given reading materials or guided to specific resources to support them. Also students are asked to complete extended writing work outside of lessons. Students consolidate their learning by producing work that is then assessed by the teacher against exam board criteria <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h106-h506/> <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/58443-question-paper-unit-f961-option-b-british-historyperiod-studies.pdf> <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/58443-question-paper-unit-f961-option-b-british-historyperiod-studies.pdf>

Key Stage 3 – Religious Education

At North Oxfordshire Academy the aim is to prepare students for success in Religious Education. A variety of teaching methods are used to sustain high levels of engagement and excellent progress. Students broadly follow the Oxfordshire agreed syllabus. Within this, students study some of the major religions of the world. Students then examine ethical issues such as conflict, equality and poverty. Students also tackle philosophical issues such as suffering and life after death.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	Comparing Religions: Gods and Key aspects	Comparing Religions: Miracles and Ceremonies	Comparing Religions: Miracles and Ceremonies	Comparing Religions: Rites of passage	Comparing Religions: Religious Experiences	Comparing Religions: Other World Religions
8	Ethics: Poverty and Equality	Ethics: Poverty and Equality	Ethics: Science and Religion	Ethics: Science and Religion	Ethics: Humans and Animal Rights	Ethics: Humans and Animal Rights
9	Big Questions: Punishment and Suffering	Big Questions: Punishment and Suffering	Big Questions: The Holocaust	Big Questions: Injustice	Big Questions: Religious responses	Big Questions: Life after death.

Home Learning

Tasks are focussed on preparing students for upcoming lessons or to consolidate key learning from the subject. Students are given knowledge organisers to support the development of their understanding. Usually these are used to prepare students for their assessments. Homework's are saved in class books and feedback is offered by staff.

Key Stage 4- RE

GCSE RE is a valuable qualification to add to a student's profile; it teaches students to reflect on personal and wider world issues and develops important critical thinking and skills of analysis and evaluation. It encourages students to challenge the status quo whilst maintaining a respectful appreciation of different world views.

At North Oxfordshire Academy we aim to share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject and through his challenge students to achieve their potential. Students are encouraged to improve their reading, interpretation and written skills, and develop to become successful debaters. OCR has provided a parent and learner overview of the course that you may find useful for reference. This can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/68516-parent-and-learner-guide.pdf>

The current year 11 cohort is following the Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics - J621 specification, a link for which can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82571-specification.pdf>

The course is essentially in two parts. In year 10, students learned the ethics part of the specification and in year 11, they learn philosophy of religion. The breakdown of the units taught can be found in the table below. There is no coursework in this qualification. Students are examined through 4 papers in total, sat across two exam sessions. There are two ethics papers and two philosophy papers. In the exam, students are required to focus on one main religion. We have selected Christianity, although other religions are covered within the units where appropriate, and high achieving candidates are expected to show an awareness of how Christianity fits alongside other world faiths.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline) RE Key Stage 4 Timeline CURRENT YEAR 11 ONLY

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
11	Belief About Deity	End Of Life	Good And Evil	Religion And Science	Revision And Exam Sessions.	

Further details of the content of these modules can be found in the 'support materials' section here on the OCR website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-appliedethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

Year 10 Route

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
10	Religious Beliefs and Relationship	Religious Beliefs and Families	Religious Beliefs and Religion and life	Religious Beliefs and Religion and life	Religious Beliefs and Crime and Punishment	Religious Beliefs and Peace and Conflict

Year 10 Link

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

Home Learning

The department set homework on a weekly basis. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Students are given knowledge organisers to support their understanding of the subject. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes. A number of revision websites have been provided below, as well as links to past papers and mark schemes. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects and regular exam practice is essential for success. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/>
<http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/re/index.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGhj0aCyCzQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJbpcLW31SmLQ1h9VIW8C2A>

Past Papers & Mark Schemes: Year 11 ONLY

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-appliedethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

Click on the 'past papers' and 'mark schemes' tabs to get a drop down of these documents from various years.

Religious Studies Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

Engaging, challenging and thought-provoking, Religious Studies builds on the work completed at GCSE but also involves a more in-depth look at the philosophical theories and ethical concepts that have shaped our society and the world, as well as covering new material. Religious Studies serves as very useful support for many other qualifications, as it places a huge emphasis on effective and persuasive writing skills, as well as thorough critical analysis and wide research through reading. As

such, it is a qualification that adequately prepares students for entry to university, where these skills are essential.

How you will study on the course

Students are completing their AS qualification currently, with a view to completing their A2 qualification next year. In each year, there are 3 units studied, The units selected for the AS cohort are Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and Development of Religious Thought. The specification for the whole course can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

Students are set regular, weekly homework, consisting of either one or two essay questions on the topic studied that week, as well as an additional task, which is usually centred around revision of what has been covered. The essays are graded and formal written feedback is provided detailing points for development. This is used to inform targets for the essays the following week.

During independent study, students are set a piece of text to read and analyse in preparation for lessons that week, to give them a general idea of the topic studied, or in order to cover extra philosopher's theories related to the topic.