

# GCSE

# Religious Studies



**Qualification:** GCSE (AQA)

## **Outline of the course:**

**Students will learn to think about big questions**—what people believe, what’s right and wrong, and what gives life meaning. This helps them form their own opinions about religious and moral issues. They will also learn **how religion, philosophy, and ethics have shaped the world we live in today**. During the course, students will develop useful skills such as:

- Critical thinking and evaluating arguments
- Understanding ideas that aren’t always simple or obvious
- Researching information
- Taking the lead in discussions

All these skills will help prepare them for further study in the future.

## **Components:**

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Paper 2: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies

For further info see [AQA | GCSE | Religious Studies A | Specification at a glance](#)



**Course assessment:**

**Paper 1:** Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of the GCSE.

**Paper 2:** Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of the GCSE.

**Additional information:** This subject requires competence in literacy and an interest in different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Please note, this is an academic study of religion and does not require learners to hold any religious beliefs.

**Further study:** Upon completion of this two-year course in Religious Studies, students will have the skills and experience to progress to A-level courses in a range of subjects including RS, Philosophy, Law and Sociology.

**Careers:** Religious Studies includes a range of skills that are highly valued by employers such as critical thinking, reflection, evaluation, empathy and interpretation. This can lead to career opportunities in any area that includes working face to face with other people such as charity worker, youth worker, journalist, lawyer, social worker, teacher.



**Paper 1:**  
Key beliefs and  
practices within  
Buddhism

**Paper 1:**  
Key beliefs and  
practices within  
Christianity

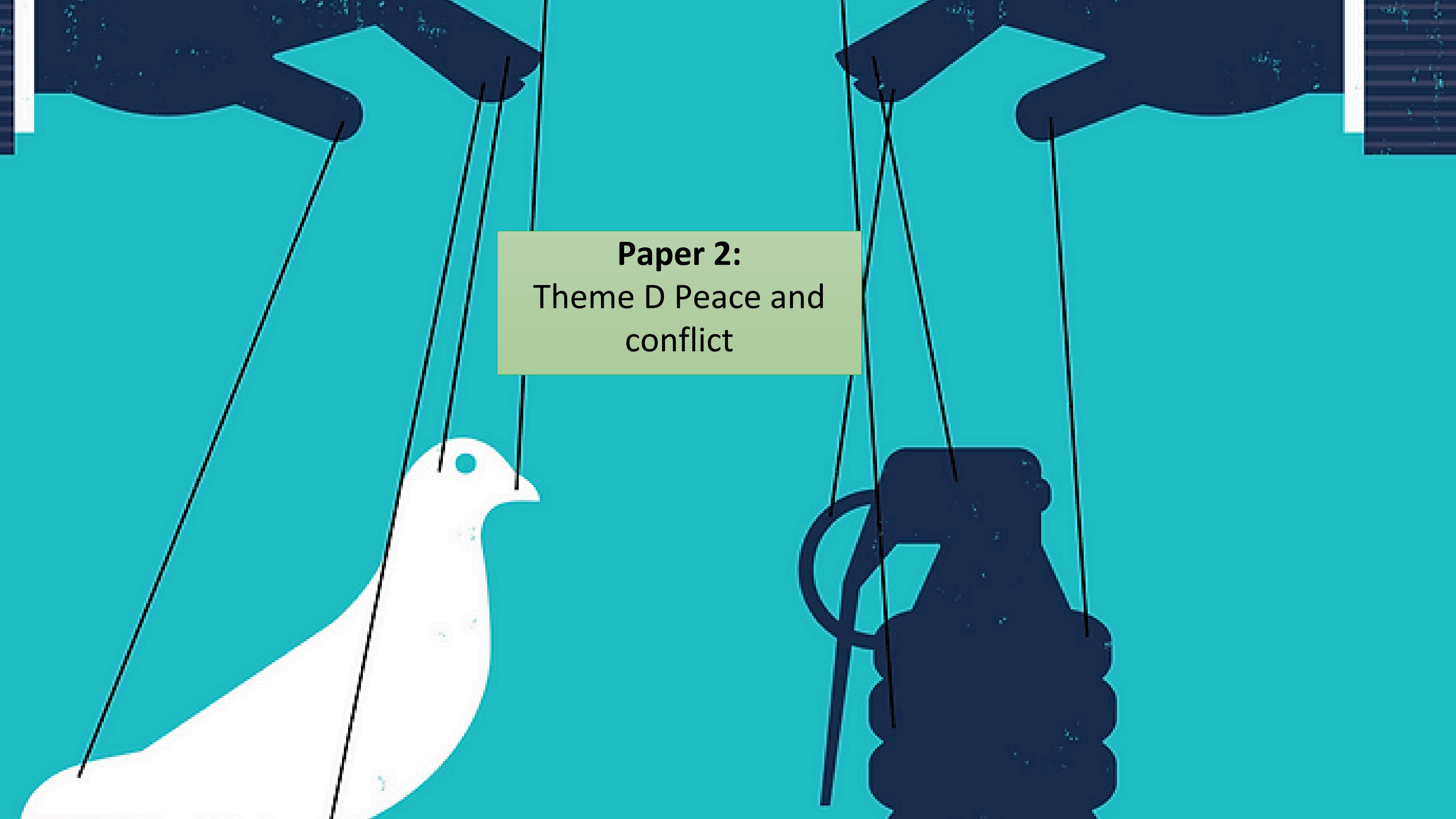




**Paper 2:**  
Theme A Relationships  
and families



**Paper 2:**  
Theme B Religion and  
life



**Paper 2:**  
Theme D Peace and  
conflict



**Paper 2:**  
Theme E crime and  
punishment