

GCSE Examination results 2009

Of the 10 secondary schools and three special schools in Portsmouth, 8 schools entered candidates for a GCSE qualification in religious studies. 7 schools offered the full course to pupils in 2009, 5 schools offered the short course and 3 schools offered both. The overall numbers entered for a qualification in religious studies reduced slightly from 896 (2008) to 884. Entries by gender indicate that 412 males were entered in comparison with 472 females.

Full Course GCSE in Religious Studies 2009

Seven secondary schools entered candidates for the full course GCSE in religious studies in 2009. The full course in religious studies was offered as an option with a variable uptake. With the exception of one school where 150 pupils were entered for the full course the numbers of pupils opting to study GCSE ranged from 11 to 60 across 5 schools. The number of candidates entered for full course religious studies showed a slight increase this year from 296 in 2008 to 300 this year.

Results also showed a slight upward trend in standards with 68% of candidates entered attaining an A*-C grade in comparison with 67% in 2008. Overall however, results remain below the national average (73% in 2008).

The gender gap narrowed for A*-C grades - 66.4% for males and 69.1% for females. Again, the differential between boys and girls in comparison with national gender averages indicates boys are performing a little better than girls. **The main message is one of improvement in line with national trends but overall attainment in remains below the national average.**

Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies 2009

5 secondary schools entered candidates for the short course in GCSE religious studies, the number of candidates entered for 2009 (584) shows a small decline from 2008 (600). Results also showed an improvement in attainment 39.2% of candidates attaining and A*-C grade in comparison 38.3% in 2008. The gender gap between boys and girls was 8%, with girls doing better than boys.

The overall message is an improvement in attainment but as with the full course, attainment in below the national average for both males and females.