



Religious Studies Key Stage 4 Curriculum

	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 10	Christian beliefs and teachings	
	What is God like?	Students examine the characteristics of God and the different views on the nature of God, including the concept of God as a Trinity of persons.
	What are the different interpretations of the Creation Story?	Students get the opportunity to read the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2 and examine different and divergent interpretations of the Genesis creation story.
	If God is all powerful and all loving, why is there evil and suffering?	Students explore the question 'if God is a loving and righteous God why is there evil and suffering in the world?', including the philosophical and Christian responses.
	How does God show his love for the world?	Students study the life of Jesus, his teachings and key events in his life.
	Does Jesus' life fulfil God's promise of salvation?	Students examine the concept of salvation, atonement and the different Christian views about salvation.
	What are the Christian attitudes to the afterlife?	Students examine Christian beliefs about resurrection, Hell, Heaven and purgatory.
	Christian practices	
	Do all Christians worship in the same way?	Students explore the different ways Christians worship depending on the traditions, denomination and an individual's preference.
	How does prayer bring a Christian closer to God?	Students examine how prayer forms part of worship and a way for the individual to communicate with God.
	How do Christians receive the blessings of God?	Students study the importance of sacraments for Christians, with a focus on Baptism and the Eucharist.
	Why is pilgrimage an important practice for many Christians?	Students explore how Christians show their faith by going on a pilgrimage.
	What is the role of the church?	Students explore the role of the church in the community and wider world.
Is it a Christians duty to share their faith?	Students study the role and purpose of evangelism and missionary work.	

	Thematic study	Focus
Year 11	Issues of life and death	
	What is the origin of life and do science and religion conflict?	Students study Orthodox and Reform Jewish responses about the accounts of the origins of the universe. They will also reflect on the relationship between Jewish and non religious views on creation.
	Will actions like euthanasia even be fully justified?	Students examine Jewish attitudes towards sanctity of life, non religious viewpoints about evolution and diverse Jewish beliefs concerning ideas like euthanasia or abortion.
	What happens after we die?	Students explore the ways in which Jews explore the idea of afterlife, what they think about the soul and how funerals in Britain reflect those beliefs.
	Issues of Human Rights	
	How do Christians apply the concept of agape in action?	Students examine the ways in which Christians try to promote human rights including equality and unconditional love. They also consider what challenges there might be when someone holds a strong personal conviction which might be going against the laws of a country.
	What are Christian responses to prejudice and discrimination?	Students explore the different Christian attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination including Martin Luther King's teachings on equality.
	Should there be ethical considerations around the acquisition of wealth?	Students study Christian attitudes and actions of Christian charities in the twenty-first century.
	Study of a world faith: Sikhism (beliefs and teachings)	
	What is the God in Sikhism?	Students examine the beliefs and teachings around the concept of God as they are expressed in the Guru Granth Sahib.
	How is equality demonstrated in Sikhism?	Students will be looking at ways in which Sikh communities try to promote equality including the emphasis they give on service to others. They will be introduced to the idea of sewa (selfless service) and learn about how the gurdwara (place of worship) operates to promote these ideas.
	What happens to the human soul after the physical death of a body?	Students will develop their understanding of what Sikhs believe happens to the soul after a physical death, including ideas on karma and the journey of the soul through death and rebirth until the final liberation is reached.
	Study of a world faith: Sikhism (practices)	
	What does a gurdwara look like?	Students will learn about the social and community features of the gurdwaras in Britain and how they practise sewa.
	What is the role of worship in Sikhism and why are some ceremonies important?	Students will look into the idea of prayer at home and meditating in the name of God. They will then focus on the different ceremonies a Sikh takes part in and the significance behind them.
How are Sikh traditions reflected through festivals?	Students will explore the origins of Sikh festivals and how they are celebrated in Britain today.	