

Subject: Religious Studies

Year 7 (Modules, Topics)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<p>Understanding Christianity Pupils develop a detailed understanding of the world's largest religion. They explore the concepts of commitment, religious authority and belief from a Christian perspective. Students are introduced to differences within Christianity and consider denominational differences. Writing structures are introduced to help students develop their skills of analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on secular society, trinity and Christian afterlife.</p> <p>3 examination style questions on worship, Tearfund and pilgrimage.</p>	<p>Exploring Islam Pupils focus on the religion of Islam; we learn about its origins, history and its different denominations. We look at how the religion is portrayed in the media and explore some of the misconceptions. We look at topical questions such as the role of women, conflict and how the commitment of being Muslim 'fits' with western society. Writing structures are rehearsed so students develop their skills of analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on denominational differences, Islam as a peaceful religion, Malala</p> <p>3 examination style questions on use of the hijab, challenges in western society, commitment.</p>	<p>Inspirational people This unit involves a case-study approach to exploring a range of key religions figures. Students have to consider how each of these act as a role model and a source of authority to other believers and have to make links between their religious influences and scripture. The key people that we explore are: Mother Teresa, Gandhi, Oscar Romero and Ellie Wiesel so this unit involves considering a range of religious traditions and beliefs. Students have to consider whether you need to be religious in order to be inspirational (evaluation skills)</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on themes around personal conviction, racial discrimination and mother Teresa.</p> <p>3 examination style questions focussing on Oscar Romero, Ellie Wiesel and religion as an inspiration.</p>

Year 8 (Modules, Topics)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<p>Big Questions: Philosophy Students have an opportunity to develop their skills of enquiry and 'deep thinking'. We pose and respond to a range of 'Big' philosophical questions throughout the topic such as 'Is there a God', 'what happens when we die', 'what is the purpose of life' and students are introduced to some of the philosophical arguments such as the ontological, cosmological and teleological arguments for the existence of God as well as looking at Plato and Aristotle. Their own ideas are compared and contrasted to religious viewpoints.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on existence of God, teleological and ontological arguments. 3 examination style questions on Aristotle, Plato and purpose.</p>	<p>Humanism Pupils research and develop an understanding of the Humanist belief system. They learn to define what it means to be humanist, how this fits in with other belief systems and religious traditions and explore the humanist response to some of the big questions that they have explored in the previous topic. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate the role of religion in the world today and use Humanism to make this critique.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions defining humanism, need for God and nature of society. 3 examination style questions on moral decisions, dealing with death, same-sex marriage</p>	<p>What does it mean to be Jewish This unit involves exploring the religion of Judaism. Students consider what it means to be a Jew in British society; considering the rules, practices, beliefs and rituals. We look at the history of the Jewish people and ask the question 'Are the Jewish people a persecuted people' but we also consider differences between orthodox and reform Jews. Students have to engage with political issues in looking at the state of Israel and Zionism. The religious concept of covenant and what this means for Jews today is explored.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on shema, significant beliefs, denominational differences 3 examination style questions on covenant, Shabbat, persecuted people.</p>

Year 9 (Modules, Topics)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<p>Humanism Pupils research and develop an understanding of the Humanist belief system. They learn to define what it means to be humanist, how this fits in with other belief systems and religious traditions and explore the humanist response to some of the big questions that they have explored in the previous topic. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate the role of religion in the world today and use Humanism to do this. <i>This module will only run in year 9 for 2017-18 as it is now covered in year 8 but has not been previously.</i></p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions defining humanism, need for God and nature of society. 3 examination style questions on moral decisions, dealing with death, same-sex marriage.</p>	<p>Morality This topic involves students researching, debating and evaluating different ethical and religious moral codes. We look at the ethical theories of Natural law, situation ethics and Utilitarianism. The moral issue that this builds to is the issue of punishment and we consider the aims and purpose of punishment and how the religious and ethical moral codes would reach a decision about whether capital punishment is acceptable.</p> <p>Assessment: 3 examination style questions on conscience, free will and utilitarianism. 3 examination style questions on death penalty, response to suffering and forgiveness.</p>	<p>Medical ethics This topic explores the relationship between medical issues and religion and poses the question as to whether religion should play a part in medical decisions. Issues explored include: Abortion, Euthanasia, IVF, Organ donation, Blood transfusions</p> <p>Assessment: 3 exam style questions on sanctity of life, abortion and IVF. 3 exam style questions on denominational differences, blood transfusions and the influence of religion on medicine.</p>