



Religious Education: Curriculum Overview

Year 9 (Statutory)

Term	Topic studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 9 Autumn	<i>Religion, War & Planet Earth</i>	<p>The first topic students will consider is one of which they will almost certainly be aware of through exposure in massed media and possible even electronic entertainment: War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do people fight wars? • Is it ever morally right to go to war? • What do different religions have to say on the subject. • What ethical controversies surround the possession and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. <p>The second builds upon some of the learning in year 8, to examine specific environmental topics in further detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the role of Animals in the world? Is it acceptable to keep them for work or as pets? • How can we deal with the growing problems of global warming and deforestation in a way which is fair to all? • Is nuclear energy the future? Or is it a dangerous experiment? 	Two formative Essays each half term.
Year 9 Spring	<i>The Holocaust</i> <i>Religion and Drugs</i> <i>Religion, Wealth and Poverty &</i>	<p>The First part of this term coincides with the events of holocaust memorial Day and provides a chance for students to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The events that, together, make up the following. • The nature and origins of antisemitism. • The testimony and message of victims and survivors. • How such terrible events and similar genocides should be remembered and prevented in future. <p>The second unit will explore the varying attitudes to the use of drugs and stimulants – Not a topic which is as simple as it first seems – but one very relevant to a youth culture which is never far away from advertising or media influence on the subject. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a drug is and the different types. • The Classification system and the effects of illegal drugs, as well as the position of UK law. 	<p>A Formal Letter on the subject of the holocaust and its survivors.</p> <p>Two Formative Essays in the latter half term.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attitude of different religions to the debate around cannabis usage. • The attitude of various religions to the use of social drugs like caffeine, tobacco and alcohol. <p>The final part of the term will be of direct benefit to those studying or considering study at GCSE as it is a key component in the reformed specification for AQA.</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of using wealth responsibly and 'right livelihood'. • Why people may be poor. • Religious attitudes to wealth. • How religious people may feel they have a duty to help the less fortunate and how they go about doing this. 	
Year 9 Summer	<i>Religion and Human Life</i>	<p>This term changes the focus to the moral frontier between contemporary science and traditional religious values. In particular we shall examine topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Ethics • Stem Cell research • Human and Animal Testing • Transfusions and Transplants • Artificial Insemination and IVF • Abortion • Cloning • Euthanasia 	Two formative essays each half term.



SUBJECT: Curriculum Overview

Year 9 (GCSE)

Please Note: The content of the GCSE is based on Specification A of AQA. This requires the study of two religions in depth, as well as four thematic studies. Further information on this can be found at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

Half Term	Topic studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 9 Autumn 1	<i>The Philosophers toolkit.</i>	This unit serves as an introduction to philosophical thinking. Among other topics students will encounter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Will • Utilitarianism • The Problem of Evil • Key Moral controversies 	One Formal written test in GCSE style.
Year 9 Autumn 2	<i>Christian beliefs and teachings</i>	Key topics Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature and Characteristics of God. • Life and Creation. • The Trinity • Judgement • Jesus and the Resurrection. 	Two formal write tests in the structure and style of a quarter of the GCSE exam.
Year 9 Spring 1	<i>Buddhist Beliefs and teachings, part I</i>	Key topics Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life of the Buddha. • The Three Poisons & The Four Noble Truths. • The Eightfold Path and Reincarnation. 	Two formal write tests in the structure and style of a quarter of the GCSE exam.
Year 9 Spring 2	<i>Buddhist Beliefs and teachings, part II</i>	Key topics Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Three Marks of existence. • Theravada Buddhism • Mahayana Buddhism • Pure Land Buddhism. 	Two formal write tests in the structure and style of a quarter of the GCSE exam.
Year 9 Summer 1	<i>Religion, Crime & Punishment</i>	Key topics Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why people commit crime and the different types of crime. • The Aims of Punishment. • Religious attitudes to all of the above. • A spotlight on Sharia Law. • Prison and its alternatives. • Capital Punishment. 	Two formal write tests in the structure and style of a quarter of the GCSE exam.

Year 9 Summer 2	<i>Religion, Peace & Conflict</i>	Key topics Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What Peace, Justice and Conflict mean for individuals and communities.• The idea of forgiveness and reconciliation.• Why people fight wars.• Thomas Aquinas and Just War Theory (<i>ius ad bellum</i>).• Holy War• Weapons or Mass Destruction• Terrorism• Peace –keeping: The UN and NATO.	Two formal write tests in the structure and style of a quarter of the GCSE exam.
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