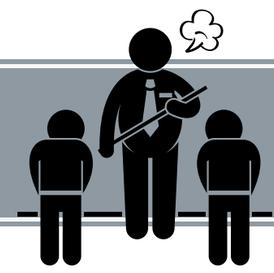
Religious Studies Key Stage 3 and 4 Learning Journey- Christianity and Buddhism

Year 11

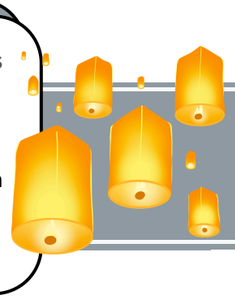
Crime and Punishment
- Crime and punishment.
- Reasons for crime.
- Lawbreakers and different types of crime.
- Three main aims of punishment.



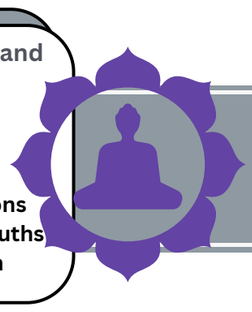
Crime and Punishment
- Suffering and causing suffering to others.
- Treatment of criminals – prison, corporal punishment, community service
- Forgiveness
- Capital punishment



Buddhism - Practices
- Places of worship
- Buddhist festivals
- Ethical teachings
- The six perfections in the Mahayana tradition



Buddhism - Beliefs and Teaching
- The human personality in the Theravada and Mahayana traditions
- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eightfold path



Buddhism - Beliefs and Teaching
- The concept of Dhamma (Dharma).
- The concept of dependent arising (paticcasamupada).
- The Three Marks of Existence



Relationships and Families
- Human sexuality, Sex before marriage, Contraception & family planning.
- Marriage, Divorce and remarriage

Relationships and Families
- Nature of families
- Purpose of families.
- Attitudes to gender equality.



Human Rights
- Human rights, social justice, prejudice and discrimination.
- Religious freedom, Race and disability
- The status and role of women within religion.

Human Rights
- Religious teachings on wealth.
- Exploitation of the poor and the role of charities.



Peace and Conflict
- Violence, protest and terrorism.
- Reasons for war and WMDs.
- Just war and Holy war.
- Pacifism and religious responses to victims of war.



Christianity - Practices
- The role of the church in the wider world.
- Christian persecution.
- The Church's response to poverty.

Christianity - Practices
- The role of the church in the local community. (Food banks and Street pastors)
- Church growth.



Christianity - Practices
- Worship, prayer and Sacraments.
- The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations to Christians.

Christianity - Belief and Teachings
- The concept of sin and salvation.
- Christian beliefs on afterlife and judgement.
- Heaven, hell and purgatory.
- Role of Christ in salvation.



Christianity - Belief and Teachings
Jesus Christ-significance for Christians, teachings, role, sources of wisdom, etc.
- Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension.

Christianity - Belief and Teachings
- Nature of God.
- Concept of God as a Trinity of persons.
- Different Christian beliefs on creation.
- Agape.



Year 10

Why is Buddhism becoming popular in the west?
- The four noble truths – suffering
- Places of worship
- Types of meditation
- Festivals – Wesak, Parinirvana day



Why is Buddhism becoming popular in the west?
- Karma and rebirth
- 5 moral precepts
- Metta and Karuna
- 6 perfections



Can humans always be moral?
- Moral argument
- Utilitarianism
- Moral actions
- Poverty
- Wealth
- Animal rights

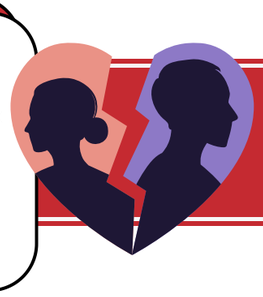


Is Humanism the way to go?
- Exploring the nature of a non-religious worldview
- The main beliefs of humanism
- The place of humanism in society



How important are relationships?
- Nature of families
- Purpose of families
- Attitudes to gender equality

How important are relationships?
- Human sexuality, Sex before marriage, Contraception & family planning.
- Marriage, Divorce and remarriage



Should humans have rights?
- The status and role of women within religion.
- Religious teachings on wealth.
- Exploitation of the poor and the role of charities

Should humans have rights?
- Human rights, social justice, prejudice and discrimination.
- Religious freedom
- Race and disability

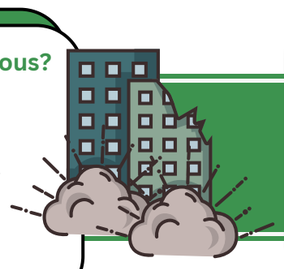


Year 9

Is religion relevant?
- Religion and gender equality
- Islamophobia
- Religion and equality



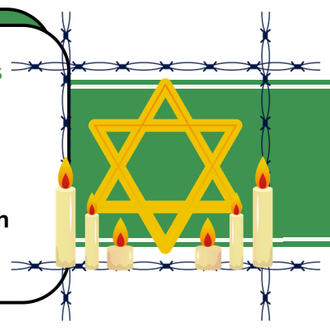
Is religion dangerous?
- Extremism
- Terrorism
- War and conflict
- Forgiveness



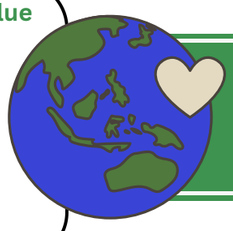
Do we need religion if we have science?
- Creationsim vs evolution
- Humans vs robots
- Humans vs animals
- Artificial intelligence



How important is equality?
- The holocaust
- The Golden rule
- The Eightfold path



Why should we value ethics?
- Utilitarianism
- Situation ethics
- Natural law
- Medical ethics



Why are new spiritualities emerging?
- Zoroastrianism
- Rastafarianism
- Bahai's beliefs
- Humanism



Year 8

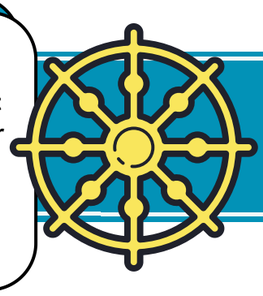
How fun and important are religious festivals?
Learning the main religious festivals within the 6 major religions and the significance of celebrating these festivals.



How important is love and forgiveness?
- Understanding the importance of forgiveness within major world religions
- Learning the Christian parables linking to good actions and forgiveness

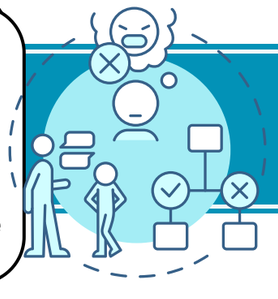


Why do we suffer?
Exploring the Buddhist perspective of the Four Noble truths and the Eightfold path.



Year 7

Do our actions affect our future?
Understanding the impact of our actions, and what religions think of our actions and consequences. Do these impact us after life?



What are the 6 major religions in the world?
Learning the 6 major religions around the world and their beliefs and practices.



What is our place in the universe?
Understanding what a worldview is and the importance of religion and beliefs in the 21st century.



Year 11 Overview

In Year 11 students will continue the learning content for the AQA exam specification in preparation for their GCSEs. They will learn Buddhist beliefs and teachings and as Practices in detail, and they will also focus on thematic topics through revision closer to the exams.

Year 10 Overview

In Year 10 students will be following the AQA exam specification in preparation for their GCSEs. They will start learning Christian beliefs and teachings and well as Practices in detail and they will also focus on thematic topics in line with the exam board.

Year 9 Overview

Students will explore 6 Big Questions:

Should humans have rights?

How important are relationships?

Why is Buddhism becoming popular in the west?

Is suffering only relevant to humans?

Can humans always be moral?

Is Humanism the way to go?

Year 8 Overview

Students will explore 6 Big Questions:

Why are new spiritualities emerging?

Why should we value ethics?

How important is equality?

Is religion relevant?

Is religion dangerous?

Do we need religion if we have science?

Year 7 Overview

Students will explore 6 Big Questions:

What is our place in the universe?

What are the 6 major religions of the world?

Do our actions affect our future?

How fun and important are religious festivals?

How important is love and forgiveness?

Why do we suffer?