

# Curriculum Overview

## Religious Studies

### KS3

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Half term 1	<p><b><u>7.01 Religion Locally &amp; Nationally</u></b>  <b><u>7.02 Origins of Abrahamic Faiths</u></b>            Genesis, Abraham, Moses &amp; the Exodus,</p>	<p><b><u>8.01 Religious Authority</u></b>            Founders &amp; Foundations, Holy Texts, Religious Leadership.</p>	<p><b><u>9.01 Philosophical &amp; Ethical Study – Life &amp; Death Issues</u></b>            Morality &amp; Ethics, Thomas Aquinas &amp; Natural Moral Law, Criticisms of Moral Law. Situation Ethics,</p>
Half term 2	<p><b><u>7.02 Origins of Abrahamic Faiths</u></b>            Leviticus, Jesus the Rebel, Jesus' Sacrifice, The Beginning of Islam, Ibrahim and Ishmael.</p>	<p><b><u>8.02 Study of Islam</u></b>            Origins, Night of Power, Hijrah &amp; the Conquest of Makkah, Islam after Prophet Muhammad, The Five Pillars.</p>	<p><b><u>9.01 Philosophical &amp; Ethical Study – Life &amp; Death Issues</u></b>            Criticisms of Situation Ethics, Sanctity of Life, Quality of Life, Abortion, Euthanasia, Capital Punishment, Animal Rights.</p>
Half term 3	<p><b><u>7.03 Study of Judaism</u></b>            Abraham &amp; the Covenant, Moses, Jewish Beliefs, Jewish Scriptures, Orthodox &amp; Reform, Temples &amp; Synagogues.</p>	<p><b><u>8.02 Study of Islam</u></b>            Ramadan &amp; Eid ul Fitr, Shariah Law, Gender Equality, Clothing, Culture &amp; Choice.  <b><u>8.03 Introduction to Dharmic Traditions</u></b>            Origins of Dharmic Faiths</p>	<p><b><u>9.02 Philosophical &amp; Ethical Study – Issues of Equality</u></b>            Religious teachings on equality, Racism &amp; Scripture, The fight for racial equality, Gender Equality</p>
Half term 4	<p><b><u>7.03 Study of Judaism</u></b>            Shabbat, Pesach, Yom Kippur, Persecution, Judaism today.</p>	<p><b><u>8.04 Study of Hindu Dharma</u></b>            Brahman &amp; the Trimurti, Sacred Texts</p>	<p><b><u>9.02 Philosophical &amp; Ethical Study – Issues of Equality</u></b>            LGBTQ+ Issues, Disability Issues, Disability Equality.</p>

<p><b>Half term 5</b></p>	<p><b><u>7.04 Study of Christianity</u></b> Birth Narratives, Jesus’ ministry, The Crucifixion, Resurrection, The Council of Nicaea, The Nicene Creed, Saint Augustine &amp; Original Sin,</p>	<p><b><u>8.05 Study of Buddhism</u></b> Siddhartha Gautama’s Life, The Quest for enlightenment, Asceticism and the Middle Way.</p>	<p><b><u>9.03 Extremism</u></b> What is extremism? Why do people become extreme? Conspiracy theory Anti-semitism The Holocaust</p>
<p><b>Half term 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>7.04 Study of Christianity</u></b> Protestantism, Christianity today, The Future of Christianity.</p>	<p><b><u>8.05 Study of Buddhism</u></b> Suffering &amp; 4 Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold Path, Karma &amp; Rebirth, Meditation &amp; Practices.</p>	<p><b><u>9.03 Extremism</u></b> Religious Fundamentalism Ultra-nationalism Terrorism Free Speech &amp; Hate Speech.</p>

## Curriculum Overview

# Religious Studies

## KS4

	Year 10	Year 11
Half term 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Christian Beliefs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of God:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ God as omnipotent, loving and just, and the problem of evil and suffering</li> <li>○ the oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).</li> <li>• Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus Christ and salvation                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs and teachings about:                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Theme A: Families &amp; Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage, divorce, remarriage</li> <li>• Human sexuality including heterosexual and same sex relationships.</li> <li>• Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contraception and family planning.</li> <li>• The nature and purpose of marriage.</li> <li>• Same-sex marriage and cohabitation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying.</li> <li>• Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families and gender equality                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of families, including:                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the role of parents and children</li> <li>○ extended families and the nuclear family.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The purpose of families, including:                       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ procreation</li> <li>○ stability and the protection of children</li> <li>○ educating children in a faith.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contemporary family issues including:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ same-sex parents</li> <li>○ polygamy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The roles of men and women.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Half term 2</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Christian Beliefs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sin, including original sin</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit</li> <li>○ the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Christian Practices</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Worship and festivals</li> <li>• Different forms of worship and their significance:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, including the use of the Bible</li> <li>○ private worship.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prayer and its significance, including the Lord’s Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role and meaning of the sacraments:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the meaning of sacrament</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Theme B: Religion &amp; Life</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The origins and value of the universe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The origins of the universe, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ religious teachings about the origins of the universe, and different interpretations of these</li> <li>○ the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder.</li> <li>• The use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use and abuse of animals, including:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ animal experimentation</li> <li>○ the use of animals for food.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The origins and value of human life             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The origins of life, including:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these</li> <li>○ the relationship between scientific views, such as evolution, and religious views.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The concepts of sanctity of life and the quality of life.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Abortion, including situations when the mother's life is at risk.</li> <li>• Ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on the sanctity of life and quality of life.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Euthanasia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Beliefs about death and an afterlife, and their impact on beliefs about the value of human life.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Half term 3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers' baptism; different beliefs about infant baptism</li> <li>○ the sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist and its significance for Christians, including different ways in which it is celebrated and different interpretations of its meaning.</li> <li>● The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona</li> <li>○ the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today.</li> <li>○ The role of the church in the local and worldwide community</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors.</li> <li>● The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.</li> <li>● The importance of the worldwide Church including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ working for reconciliation</li> <li>○ how Christian churches respond to persecution</li> <li>○ the work of one of the following: Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Tearfund</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Theme D: Religion, Peace &amp; Conflict</u></b> <b>Religion, violence, terrorism and war</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The meaning and significance of:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ peace</li> <li>○ justice</li> <li>○ forgiveness</li> <li>○ reconciliation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Violence, including violent protest.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Terrorism.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation.</li> <li>● The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Holy war.</li> <li>● Pacifism.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Religion and belief in 21st century conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The use of weapons of mass destruction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.</li> <li>● Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Half term 4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Buddhist Beliefs</u></b> The Dhamma (Dharma)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The concept of Dhamma (Dharma).</li> <li>● The concept of dependent arising (paticcasamupada).</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Theme E: Religion, Crime &amp; Punishment</u></b> Religion, crime and the causes of crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Three Marks of Existence:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ anicca (impermanence)</li> <li>○ anatta (no fixed self)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ dukkha (unsatisfactoriness of life, suffering).</li> <li>• The human personality, in the Theravada and Mahayana traditions:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Theravada: the Five Aggregates (skandhas) of form, sensation, perception, mental formations, consciousness</li> <li>○ Mahayana: sunyata, the possibility of attaining Buddhahood and Buddha-nature.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human destiny:</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ different ideals in Theravada and Mahayana traditions: Arhat (a 'perfected person') and Bodhisattva ideals               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Buddhahood and the Pure Land.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for crime, including:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ poverty and upbringing</li> <li>○ mental health problems and addiction               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ greed and hate</li> <li>○ opposition to an unjust law.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Views about people who break the law for these reasons.</li> <li>• Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.           <p style="text-align: center;">Religion and punishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aims of punishment, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ retribution</li> <li>○ deterrence</li> <li>○ reformation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The treatment of criminals, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ prison</li> <li>○ corporal punishment</li> <li>○ community service.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forgiveness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The death penalty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life</li> </ul>
<p><b>Half term 5</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Buddhist Beliefs</u></b></p> <p>The Buddha and the Four Noble Truths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Buddha's life and its significance:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the birth of the Buddha and his life of luxury</li> <li>○ the Four Sights: illness, old age, death, holy man (Jataka 075)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Buddha's ascetic life</li> <li>○ the Buddha's Enlightenment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Four Noble Truths:</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ suffering (dukkha) including different types of suffering</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Exam Preparation and Examinations.</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paper 1: Christianity &amp; Buddhism 1hr45mins</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paper 2: Themes A, B, D, E (not C or E) 1hr45mins</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the causes of suffering (samudaya); the Three Poisons, ignorance, greed and hate</li> <li>○ the end of craving (tanha), interpretations of nibbana (nirvana) and Enlightenment</li> <li>○ the Eightfold Path (magga) to nibbana/nirvana; the pathas the Threefold Way: ethics (sila), meditation (samadhi) and wisdom (panna). Dhammapada 190–191</li> </ul>	
<p>Half term 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Buddhist Practices</u></b> Worship and festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The nature, use and importance of Buddhist places of worship including temples, shrines, monasteries (viharas), halls for meditation or learning (gompas) and their key features including Buddha rupa, artefacts and offerings.</li> <li>● Puja , the significance and role of puja/devotional ritual in the home and in the temple, including chanting, both as a devotional practice and as an aid to mental concentration, mantra recitation, use of malas.</li> <li>● Meditation, the different aims, significance and methods of meditation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Samatha (concentration and tranquillity) including mindfulness of breathing</li> <li>○ Vipassana (insight) including zazen</li> <li>○ the visualisation of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The practice and significance of different ceremonies and rituals associated with death and mourning in Theravada communities and in Japan and Tibet.</li> <li>● Festivals and retreats and their importance to Buddhists in Great Britain today, including the celebrations, origins and significance of:</li> </ul>	

- Wesak
- Parinirvana Day.
- Buddhist ethics
  - Ethical teaching:
    - kamma (karma) and rebirth
    - compassion (karuna)
    - loving kindness (metta).
  - The five moral precepts:
- The six perfections in the Mahayanan tradition:

## Curriculum Overview

### A Level Religious Studies

#### KS5

	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>
Half term 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section A: Philosophy of religion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arguments for the existence of God               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evil and suffering</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self, death and the afterlife</li> <li>• Good conduct and key moral principles               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expression of religious identity</li> <li>• Religion, gender and sexuality</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Half term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious experience</li> <li>• Religious language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion and science</li> <li>• Religion and secularisation</li> <li>• Religion and religious pluralism.</li> </ul>

<b>Half term 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miracles</li> <li>• Self and life after death.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.</b> How religion is influenced by and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.</p>
<b>Half term 4</b>	<p><b>Section B: Ethics and religion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical theories</li> <li>• Issues of human life and death</li> <li>• Issues of animal life and death</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.</b> How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied</p>
<b>Half term 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to meta ethics</li> <li>• Free will and moral responsibility               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conscience</li> <li>• Bentham and Kant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exam preparation</b></p>
<b>Half term 6</b>	<p><b>Section A: Study of religion – for each faith option (2A–2E) the following topics are covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>• God/gods/ultimate reality</li> </ul>	