

Keystage 3 Curriculum

Subject: Religious Studies

Head of Department: Mr D. Bennett

We teach young people to ask questions, while also teaching them knowledge and understanding. We explore the main tenets of world faiths in order to support our young people in developing their own values and principles, and to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Year 7 lays the foundation for the study of religion and using religion as a lens with which to examine the world and ethical issues. The first topic sows the seeds of the philosophical approach found within the discipline before asking pupils to reflect on their own identities and values.

Year 8 builds on the groundwork done in year 7 by focusing on the study of a particular religion (this domain specific skill is essential in KS4 & 5 study). This then leads into two discrete units on the philosophy of religion

Year 9 further develops the threshold ideas found in year 7 & 8 by explicitly introducing the idea that there are different ways of seeing the same issue or question and broadening this out to deal with religious (applied) ethics.

In Key Stage 3, pupils study the following:

Term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn	<p>Topic: Truth, Knowledge and belief</p> <p>Fertile Q: What is belief?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content: 1st half of unit: Facts, opinions, myths and beliefs What and how can we know something? Changing truth: What is religious faith? <p>2nd half of topic: Issue based study: Animal rights. How can the issue of animal testing</p>	<p>Topic: The study of religion: Buddhism</p> <p>Fertile Q: Why would a prince give up his fortune?</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the history of Buddhism shaped the beliefs practices and identity of Buddhists? History & scripture: the story of Siddhartha & Link to key beliefs and religious practices 	<p>Topic: Philosophy of religion: Religion and Science</p> <p>Fertile Q: Can we trust both science and religion?</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of 'truth' The authority of religion and scripture the scientific revolution (The enlightenment) the origins of the universe

	<p>be seen from different perspectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the religious community & identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evolution V creation Can science and religion agree?- interpretation
Spring	<p>Topic: Foundations: What is religion?</p> <p>Fertile Q: What makes a religion a religion?</p> <p>Content: The Eastern and Western faiths (the big 6) Common characteristics and specific information Beliefs, teachings, practices, ritual & worship, meaning, community, festivals, authority, scripture, identity</p> <p>Scripture and quotation emphasis</p>	<p>Topic: Ethics: Gender equality</p> <p>Fertile Q: Are religions sexist?</p> <p>Content: Focus on Islam and Christianity. Cultural and traditional views Vs liberal views and social change.</p>	<p>Topic: Ethics: Gender equality</p> <p>Fertile Q: Are religions sexist?</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on Islam and Christianity. Cultural and traditional views Vs liberal views and social change
Summer	<p>Topic: My religious identity</p> <p>Fertile Q: How do my beliefs affect my identity?</p> <p>Content: Personal reflection placed in an academic context</p> <p>Consider cultural, ethnic, religious and social influences on pupils own identity. Case study approach for second half (Amish, Jewish, Islamic identity)</p>	<p>Topic: Ethics: Medical ethics</p> <p>Fertile Q: Is human life 'sacred'?</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sanctity of life Abortion & euthanasia Revisit the common themes across all religions 	<p>Topic: Ethics: Medical ethics</p> <p>Fertile Q: Is human life 'sacred'?</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sanctity of life Abortion & euthanasia Revisit the common themes across all religions

Keystage 4

The study of religion is as relevant and fascinating now as it has ever been. In the complex and changing world, a firm grasp of different belief systems, cultures and the philosophical arguments that underpin our standing on a range of ethical issues, stand as part of a well-rounded curriculum. Religious Studies GCSE allows students to investigate the beliefs and practices of the predominant world faiths, while examining their own attitudes and beliefs, and the social and ethical issues that continue to affect us all.

The Religious Studies GCSE has two elements to it:

- The study of religion
- Thematic studies

The study of religion: Islam & Christianity. Four sections to the year 10 content that build directly on preceding threads in the curriculum. Revisited concepts include: Belief, teaching, scripture, authority, God, community, faith, ritual, practice.

Thematic studies: Four topics covered in the four half terms leading up to Easter. This is essentially the ethics part of the course using a comparative approach (that students will now be familiar with). Pupils must refer to religious and non-religious arguments whilst applying the beliefs and teachings from the year 10 content.

At Phoenix Academy, Religious Studies is compulsory for all students. Students follow the AQA exam spec.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF>

In previous years, students have received some outstanding results.

Topic	Year 10	Year 11
1	<p>Topic: Christian beliefs (9 weeks); Christian practices (3 weeks & completed next term)</p> <p>Fertile Q1: What is the narrative at the heart of Christian belief</p> <p>Content: The nature of God; Creation; Incarnation; crucifixion and resurrection; the afterlife and judgement; sin and salvation</p>	<p>Fertile Q: Does life have any intrinsic value, and if so why?</p> <p>Content: Origins of life; Value and abuses of the environment; Animals; Abortion; euthanasia; the afterlife</p>
2		

	<p>Fertile Q2: What is it to be a Christian?</p> <p>Content: Worship; the Sacraments; Pilgrimage; festivals; the church & community; evangelism; persecution; the work of the church</p>	<p>Topic 2: The existence of God.</p> <p>Fertile Q2: Are there any God reasons to believe in God?</p> <p>Content: The arguments; Design argument; cosmological; Revelation; Miracles; arguments against God's existence</p>
3	<p>Topic: Christian Practices (6 weeks) Islamic beliefs (6 weeks completed next term)</p> <p>Fertile Q3: (Islamic beliefs): Are Muslims bound by God's will?</p> <p>Content: The nature of God, angels, predestination, the afterlife, Prophethood, the Quran</p>	<p>Topic 3: Religion, peace and justice</p> <p>Fertile Q: Can violence ever be justified?</p> <p>Content: Violence, protest and terrorism; war; WMD; Just war theory; Holy war; pacifism; the consequences of war</p>
4	<p>Topic: Islamic beliefs (3 weeks) Islamic practices (9 weeks)</p> <p>Fertile Q4: What is it that makes a Muslim a Muslim?</p> <p>Content: The Five Pillars: Shahada; Salah; Sawm; Zakah; Hajj; Jihad; Festivals</p>	<p>Topic 4: Human rights and social justice. FQ: Is it possible to live in a world that is truly free?</p> <p>Content: Human rights; Social justice; Prejudice and discrimination; Women's rights; wealth and poverty.</p>