Year 9 Religious Studies

RE Skills

Cultural literacy: Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical, religious, cultural, and historical perspectives.

Ethical reasoning: Apply ethical frameworks to complex dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, war, animal testing, and capital punishment.

Justified reasoning: Construct balanced, well-evidenced arguments.

Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Synthesis: Engage with disciplines like sociology, anthropology, philosophy, theology, science, and politics, to explore how beliefs arise, how they shape societies, and how systems of power, tradition, and morality interlink.







This way to Year 10

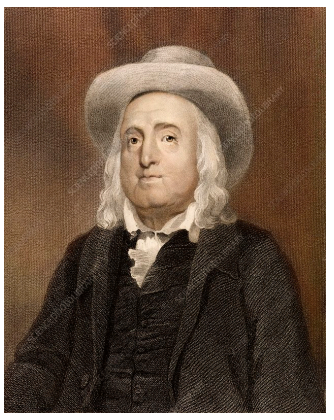
GCSE RS Topics:

- **Marriage and the Family:** Sexual relationships, family planning, divorce, gender equality.
- **Matters of Life and Death:** Creation, Afterlife, value of life, animal rights, stewardship of the planet.
- **Crime and Punishment:** Death penalty, treatment of criminals, aims of punishment, forgiveness.
- **Peace and Conflict:** Just war, Holy war, Peace-making, Weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, violence.
- **Christian and Jewish Beliefs and Lives:** Sanctity of life, ceremonies, festivals, evil and suffering.

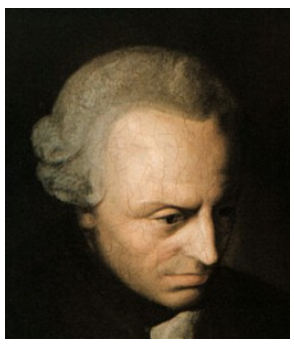
Summer Term

Applied Ethics:

- Apply ethical theories to real-world moral, legal, and political dilemmas, including euthanasia, punishment, scientific responsibility, war, and civil disobedience.
- Critically evaluate how religious and non-religious worldviews shape decision-making and moral responsibility in personal, societal, and global contexts.
- Develop and justify informed personal ethical positions while engaging with multiple perspectives in respectful, evidence-based debate.



Spring Term



Life, Death and Beyond

- Describe a range of religious, paranormal, and secular beliefs about life after death.
- Explain how beliefs about the afterlife influence values, behaviour, identity, and religious practice.
- Evaluate and communicate different responses to questions about death, consciousness, and human existence using evidence and philosophical reasoning.

Autumn Term

Origins of Belief

- Explore and compare how early religious traditions emerged and developed across different cultures and time periods, using sociological, anthropological, and historical methods.
- Analyse how belief systems reflect and respond to their cultural, social, and ethical contexts, leading to divergence, reform, or transformation over time.
- Evaluate the relationship between religion, morality, and philosophy, including how early traditions justify ethical behaviour and whether belief requires the supernatural.



Year 8 Summer Term



Atheism:

- Describe key atheist and Humanist perspectives and compare them withreligious worldviews.
- Explain why some people identify as non-religious and how non-religiousworldviews address questions of meaning, morality, and purpose.
- Evaluate and communicate arguments about belief, non-belief, and theexistence of God using evidence and reasoned judgement.

YEAR 8





Year 9 learning summary

In Year 9 Religious Education, students engage with some of the most challenging and thought-provoking questions about religion, belief, and human existence. They begin by exploring the origins of belief through the lenses of sociology, anthropology, history, archaeology, and historiography, examining how religions developed across ancient civilisations and why scholars disagree about their origins. Students then investigate different understandings of life after death, evaluating paranormal, secular, Abrahamic, and Dharmic perspectives on what happens when we die and how these beliefs influence the way people live. Finally, students study ethical decision-making through contemporary issues such as euthanasia, capital punishment, war, weapons of mass destruction, and artificial intelligence, applying philosophical and religious ideas to complex moral dilemmas. Across the year, students strengthen their ability to analyse evidence, evaluate competing arguments, and engage thoughtfully with the ethical and existential questions that continue to shape the modern world.