

# Year 7 Religious Studies: Core Knowledge.

## Topic 1: Belief in God.

1. What is a god?
2. What makes someone, or something, divine?
3. Why do some people believe in God? (You need to know at least 2 reasons in detail).
4. Why do some people not believe in God? (You need to know at least 2 reasons in detail).
5. What do you believe about God? (You must be able to give reasons for what you believe in as much detail as possible).

## Topic 2: Christianity and Islam.

1. How do Muslims and Christians view God?
2. What gives meaning to the lives of Christians?
3. What gives meaning to the lives of Muslims?
4. Why is the Bible important to Christians?
5. Why is the Qur'an important to Muslims?
6. How can a church help Christians to find God?
7. What is the purpose of pilgrimage and how does it help Muslims to find Allah?
8. How do Christians and Muslims celebrate festivals? Give an example from each religion.
9. What is the Golden Rule and how will it affect a Christian's behaviour?
10. What is Zakah, and why do Muslims do it?

## Topic 3: Hinduism.

1. How do Hindus view God?
2. What is the Trimurti, and what role does each of them have?
3. Who was Rama?
4. What is the main message of the Bhagavad Gita?
5. When and how is the festival of Holi celebrated?
6. What is the meaning behind this festival?

## Topic 4: Buddhism.

1. Who was the Buddha?
2. What are the 3 Universal Truths according to the Buddha?
3. What are the 4 Noble Truths and why are they important to Buddhists?
4. Name 3 of the steps on the Noble Eightfold Path.
5. List 4 things you might find on a Buddhist Shrine and explain why they are there.
6. What is meditation and why do Buddhists do it?

## Year 7 Religious Studies: Core Knowledge answers.

### Topic 1: Belief in God.

**1. What is a god?**

A supernatural being believed to have special powers over nature or life.

**2. What makes someone or something divine?**

Divine means beyond human – something that is heavenly or spiritual.

**3. Why do some people believe in God? (Learn 2 reasons.)**

1. They believe they have experienced the wonder of God, for example, in nature.
2. They have had a conversion experience - something happened which changed their beliefs about God.
3. When they pray they feel they are communicating with him and believe He will answer.
4. They have witnessed a miracle when something has happened which has defied the laws of nature and cannot be explained.

**4. Why do some people not believe in God? (Learn 2 reasons.)?**

- 1 They have not experienced much religion in their background.
- 2 The belief system or religion they follow teaches that what is important comes from within us, not an external spirit.
- 3 They struggle to understand how a loving God could allow suffering and evil to exist.

**5. What do I believe about God? Use what you have learned from the questions above to help you to compose your answer. You should be able to say if you are theist, agnostic or atheist.**

### Topic 2: Christianity and Islam.

**1. How do Muslims and Christians view God?**

Creator; loving; judge; forgiving; fair; eternal.

**2. What gives meaning to the lives of Christians?**

Relationship with God and Jesus. Humans were put on earth by God to look after it. When the body dies their soul will be judged by God and sent to heaven if they have followed his teachings.

**3. What gives meaning to the lives of Muslims?**

Showing respect to Allah in every aspect of their lives is important. They will be judged on their deeds when they die, and will be given a place in Paradise if they have done enough that is good.

**4. Why is the Bible important to Christians?**

Seen as the word of God. Contains important stories and teachings about how to live.

**5. Why is the Qur'an important to Muslims?**

Given by Allah to Muhammad through the angel Jibril so everything in it is from God.

**6. How can a church help Christians to find God?**

The font, the pulpit, the pews, stained glass windows etc point to God in different ways.

Church is also the community of Christians so they find God by sharing experiences, worshipping and socialising together as they believe that God can be found in every human too.

**7. What is the purpose of pilgrimage and how does it help Muslims to find Allah?**

Makkah is a holy place. Visiting the sites where the Prophet Muhammad lived and worked help Muslims feel closer to God.

**8. How do Christians and Muslims celebrate festivals? Give an example from each religion.**

**Christians:** Christmas and Easter. They will attend a church service to worship God. They will spend time with family and friends and may exchange gifts and eat special food.

**Muslims:** Eid-ul-Adha happens at the end of Hajj and reminds them of sacrifice. They may offer food to someone in need. Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan the month of fasting. They will attend the Mosque and spend time with friends and family.

**9. What is the Golden Rule and how will it affect a Christian's behaviour?**

Jesus' teaching to "treat others as you would like to be treated". Christians will try to be kind and caring in the way they treat others.

**10. What is Zakah, and why do Muslims do it?**

Giving 2.5% to the poor annually. It reminds Muslims to be thankful for what they have, avoid greed, and remember those who are less fortunate.

**Topic 3: Hinduism.**

**1. How do Hindus view God?**

The Supreme Spirit (Brahman) is too complex to be known so is represented by three main gods who each have thousands of different avatars (gods). Each of these is a god and could be worshipped by Hindus.

**2. What is the Trimurti, and what role does member of it have?**

The three main gods of the Supreme Spirit: Brahma, the creator; Vishnu, the preserver; and Shiva, the destroyer.

**3. Who is Rama?**

A popular avatar of Vishnu and the hero of the Ramayana a well-loved Hindu story.

**4. What is the main message of the Bhagavad Gita?**

To try to avoid temptations in life.

**5. When and how is the festival of Holi celebrated?**

Springtime. Hindus worship together and then throw coloured paint and light a bonfire.

**6. What is the meaning behind this festival?**

The colours remind Hindus of Krishna who liked to play pranks on people and wanted everyone to be equal. The bonfire reminds them of the story of Holika who was an evil sorceress who burned in a fire. The festival is about equality as everyone is welcome to take part.

**Topic 4: Buddhism.**

**1. Who was the Buddha?**

Originally Prince Siddhartha. He left his royal palace when he witnessed suffering for the first time, to try to find some answers about why it was happening. He became the Buddha (enlightened one) when he meditated and found the answers he had been looking for.

**2. What are the 3 Universal Truths according to the Buddha?**

Anicca – impermanence; Dukkha – suffering; Anatta – there is no self.

**3. What are the 4 Noble Truths and why are they important to Buddhists?**

1. We all suffer.
2. Craving things causes suffering.
3. By letting go of craving you can find nirvana (peace).
4. This is done by following the steps of the Noble Eightfold Path, the Middle Way.

These truths are at the heart of the Buddha's teaching. Buddhists believe that they too can become enlightened if they follow these teachings.

**4. Name 3 of the steps on the Noble Eightfold Path.**

- RIGHT UNDERSTANDING
- RIGHT INTENTION
- RIGHT SPEECH
- RIGHT ACTION
- RIGHT LIVELIHOOD
- RIGHT EFFORT
- RIGHT MINDFULNESS
- RIGHT CONCENTRATION

**5. List 4 things you might find on a Buddhist Shrine and explain why they are there.**

Statue of the Buddha (mudras or hand gestures remind Buddhists of his teachings, to meditate, to be fearless etc) Flowers represent life changing all the time; Incense represents truth and the intention to live a life of good deeds; Candles represent the wisdom and insight of the Buddha.

**6. What is meditation and why do Buddhists do it?**

Meditation is training the mind to help gain understanding. This helps them gain awareness of things they need to change in their own lives and leads them ultimately to freedom from suffering, or Nirvana.