

Year 8 Religious Studies: Core Knowledge.

Topic 1: Introduction to Sikhism.

1. How many gods do Sikhs believe in?
2. What does "Waheguru" mean?
3. What do the words "reincarnation", "mukhti" and "karma" mean?
4. Explain Sikh views on life after death using those three words.
5. What is the khalsa? Who formed it?
6. What is the Guru Granth Sahib Ji?
7. Why are the 10 Gurus important to Sikhs?
8. Name some of the main features of a gurdwara.
9. List the 5 Ks and say what each one represents.
10. What is Sewa and why do Sikhs do it?

Topic 2: Introduction to Judaism.

1. Why is the Shema important to Jews?
2. Where would you find a Mezuzah? Why?
3. According to the Torah, who did God make the first covenants with?
4. What does "Shalom" mean?
5. Why is Moses an important leader for Jews?
6. Why is Shabbat important to Jews?
7. Say 2 things a Jewish man may do to prepare to pray.
8. Why might he do those things?
9. What happens at a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?
10. Why are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jews?

Topic 3: The Holocaust from a Jewish Perspective.

1. What was the Nazi understanding of the term "Jewish"?
2. What were the Jewish people hoping for during the Holocaust?
3. What was Auschwitz?
4. Who was Anne Frank?
5. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
6. Why was it put in place by the UN?
7. Which country was given to the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust?
8. Why was it not the place they were hoping for?

Topic 4: Topical Islam.

1. Are Islamic Extremists the same as terrorists? Explain why.
2. How do they relate to the religion of Islam?
3. What does the Qur'an say about violence and killing?
4. Why do some Muslim women choose to wear traditional Islamic clothes?
5. What do Muslims believe about equality?

Year 8 Religious Studies: Core Knowledge answers.

Topic 1: Introduction to Sikhism.

1. How many gods do Sikhs believe in?

One – the same god of all the Judeo-Christian religions.

2. What does “Waheguru” mean?

Wonderful Lord. Sikhs use it to greet one another.

3. What do the words “reincarnation”, “mukhti” and “karma” mean?

Reincarnation means re-birth.

Mukhti is escape from reincarnation, and unity with God.

Karma means the consequences of our actions.

4. Explain Sikh views on life after death using those three words.

Sikhs believe we have been reborn through many lifetimes, but it is only as a human that we can connect to God, so we should take the opportunity to do good deeds and follow God’s teachings so that after our current life we will not be re-born but will be given eternity with God in Mukhti.

5. What is the khalsa? Who formed it?

The Khalsa is the community of the pure – Sikhs who choose to be baptised. It was formed by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the final human guru.

6. What is the Guru Granth Sahib Ji?

The collection of teachings written by the ten human Gurus. It was chosen by Guru Gobind Singh to be the final Guru, and is viewed by many as a living being.

7. Why are the 10 Gurus important to Sikhs?

Their teachings form the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, they demonstrated good leadership under the pressures of war, and are considered worthy leaders of the Sikh faith.

8. Name some of the main features of a gurdwara.

The prayer hall; the manji and chanani (platform and canopy); the golak (offering box); Ragis platform (where the musicians sit); the Guru Granth Sahib Ji; Shoe room; class room; Kitchen and Langar Hall.

9. List the 5 Ks and say what each one represents.

Kara – bracelet – the circle represents the eternity of God, and the steel or iron, strength.

Kesh – uncut hair – it is not cut because it’s a gift from God.

Kangha – the comb to keep the hair tidy and to remind them to keep their lives tidy too.

Kacchera – undershorts that represent dignity.

Kirpan – a ceremonial dagger - from “Kirpa” meaning blessing and “aan” meaning honour. It would never be used by a Sikh.

10. What is Sewa and why do Sikhs do it?

Sewa is unconditional service for others. It is done to gain good karma, and to humble oneself before God. Often Sikhs will carry out the langar as their sewa.

Topic 2: Introduction to Judaism.

1. Why is the Shema important to Jews?

The Shema is the first great commandment, to love God with all that you have so it is important as it reminds them of the place God should have in their lives.

2. Where would you find a Mezuzah? Why?

On a door post of a Jewish home, both inside and outside. It is a small box that contains the Shema.

3. According to the Torah, who did God make the first covenants with?

Noah and Moses.

4. What does “Shalom” mean?

Peace.

5. Why is Moses an important leader for Jews?

Despite the fact that he was not perfect, he was chosen by God to lead the Israelites from several hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt. He was later given the 10 commandments by God which became the laws for the early Jewish people.

6. Why is Shabbat important to Jews?

Shabbat is the day of rest given to Jews by God. It reminds them of the creation story, and is a time every week to reconnect to their family and to God.

7. Say 2 things a Jewish man may do to prepare to pray.

He might put on the Tefillin (small leather boxes strapped to the head and arm), the kippah (prayer cap), or the Tallit (prayer shawl). He might say the special blessings, wash his hands, and bow his head.

8. Why might he do those things?

To help him to prepare to meet God in prayer. The time spent with God in prayer is special so the preparation is special too.

9. What happens at a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A Jewish boy or girl aged around 13 will read something in public from the Torah for the first time. There will be a party afterwards to celebrate that the young person is now a responsible adult in the Jewish community.

10. Why are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jews?

They remind Jews of the importance of forgiveness, and Yom Kippur is the start of the New Year for Jews, so they know that they can ask for forgiveness from God and from others, and have a fresh start with a clean slate.

Topic 3: The Holocaust from a Jewish Perspective.

1. What was the Nazi understanding of the term “Jewish”?

The Nazis used the term “Jewish” to apply to anyone whose mother or grandmother was Jewish. This means that many people who were not religious, or who had changed their religion were included.

2. What were the Jewish people hoping for during the Holocaust?

They were hopeful that God would send someone to save them, as he did when their ancestors were enslaved in Egypt.

3. What was Auschwitz?

It was the largest and most deadly concentration camp.

4. Who was Anne Frank?

Anne was a young Jewish girl whose family hid in the top floors of a factory in the Netherlands during the Holocaust. Anne kept a diary throughout their time in hiding, and this was published by her father (who was the only survivor of the family) after the war had ended.

5. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

A set of 30 legal articles relating to human rights, put in place by the United Nations in 1948.

6. Why was it put in place by the UN?

It was a response to the atrocities of the Holocaust, and was designed to prevent anything like it from happening again.

7. Which country was given to the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust?

Israel.

8. Why was it not the place they were hoping for?

They were hoping for a place of peace – the land that God had promised them in the first covenant. However, the land for Israel was taken from the Palestinians by the UN without their permission, and consequently wars broke out between the Israelis and Palestinians. There is still unrest there today.

Topic 4: Topical Islam.

1. Are Islamic Extremists the same as terrorists? Explain why.

Terrorists such as IS are Islam Extremists, but not all Islamic Extremists become terrorists.

2. How do they relate to the religion of Islam?

Islamic Extremism is an extreme form of the religion of Islam, following an interpretation of laws from the 6th Century. Islam teaches tolerance and understanding, so most Muslims do not understand why the extremists choose to live as they do. There is very little connection between terrorism and the religion of Islam, which promotes peace and tolerance, not violence and killing.

3. What does the Qur'an say about violence and killing?

If anyone kills one person it is as if he killed everyone.

Anyone who kills another will not smell the fragrance of paradise (heaven).

Those who kill will be judged first by Allah, and the judgement will be swift and just.

4. Why do some Muslim women choose to wear traditional Islamic clothes?

They are following the Prophet Muhammad's teachings to dress modestly.

5. What do Muslims believe about equality?

All people are equal because this is what the Qur'an (and therefore, Allah) has declared. This means that men and women are equal in importance, but they are seen to have different roles by many Muslims.