

**Religious Studies Threshold concepts:**

Topic title	Lens of study	Year of study	Threshold concepts	Core knowledge	Builds on ...	Links to ...
How valid are the arguments about the existence of God?	Philosophy	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reasons why theists believe in God.</li> <li>- Reasons why atheists / agnostics don't believe in God.</li> </ul>	Cosmological argument; Teleological argument; Moral argument; Evil God; Philosophy; argument; theory Big Bang Theory; evolution; Intelligent design; theodicy; eternal; atheist; agnostic; theist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior learning about God from KS2.</li> <li>- Prior learning about scientific theories at KS2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All theology topics at KS3.</li> <li>- What is the meaning of life?</li> <li>- AQA GCSE.</li> <li>- Citizenship- the precious liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom</li> </ul>
Why is Jesus important to Christians? (using the Big Story of Christianity resource.)	Theology	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What Christians believe about God, the Bible and Jesus.</li> <li>- Why Jesus is important to Christians including salvation and forgiveness.</li> </ul>	Trinity; The Bible; creation; The Fall; Sin / Original Sin; exile; Messiah; crucifixion; resurrection; Lamb of God; forgiveness; salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How valid are the arguments about belief in God.</li> <li>- Prior learning about Christianity at KS2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why does God have so many names?</li> <li>- Why is Christianity the way it is today?</li> <li>- AQA GCSE Christianity Beliefs and teachings.</li> </ul>
Why is Christianity the way it is today?	Social Science	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How the Christian Church came into being.</li> <li>- What the Church is like today.</li> </ul>	The Great Commission; Holy Spirit; evangelism; ascension; disciples; Creed; Roman Catholic; Orthodox; Protestant; Rites of passage; baptism; eucharist / holy communion; reformation; denomination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- Prior learning about Christianity at KS2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why does God have so many names? (Trinity)</li> <li>- AQA GCSE Christianity Beliefs and teachings and practices.</li> <li>- Citizenship- the roles played by public and voluntary groups in society</li> </ul>

What is the meaning of life?	Philosophy	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concept of God in Sikhism and Judaism.</li> <li>- How beliefs in God are reflected in what Sikhs and Jews do.</li> <li>- Where meaning comes from for those who don't believe in God.</li> </ul>	Waheguru; Torah; Talmud; Rabbi; Tikkun Olam; Bal taschit; Guru Nanak; commandments; Hukam; sewa; charity; UDHR; tolerant; secularism; piety; dogma; morality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior learning about Sikhism and Judaism at KS2.</li> <li>- How valid are the arguments about the existence of God?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why does God have so many names? (Judaism)</li> <li>- To what extent are religions reactions to or reflections of society? (Sikhism)</li> <li>- Citizenship- ways in which citizens work together to improve their communities (sewa)</li> </ul>
Why does God have so many names?	Theology	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concept of God in Islam.</li> <li>- Concept of Trinity in Christianity.</li> <li>- Concept of God in Judaism.</li> <li>- Concept of God in Hinduism.</li> </ul>	Allah; shirk; Shahadah; submission; Tawhid; JHWH; Adonai; HaShem; Trinity; Holy Spirit; Jesus; just; merciful; monotheist; transcendent; Brahman; avatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why is Christianity the way it is today?</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- What is the meaning of life? (Judaism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are religions reflections of, or reactions to, society? (Islam)</li> <li>- AQA GCSE Islam beliefs and teachings; Islam practices.</li> </ul>
To what extent are religions reflections of, or reactions to, society?	Social Science	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How the origins of Islam were a reaction to society at the time.</li> <li>- How Sikhism reacted to the society it emerged into.</li> </ul>	Makkah; Prophet Muhammad; Ka'aba; Sunni; Shi'a; Sufi; idolatry; Gurus; caste system; equality; langar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why does God have so many names? (Islam)</li> <li>- What is the meaning of life? (Sikhism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AQA GCSE Islam beliefs and teachings and Islam practices.</li> <li>- AQA GCSE thematic studies: Human Rights and social justice.</li> <li>- Citizenship- the precious liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom</li> </ul>

Christianity: Beliefs and teachings.	Philosophy Theology Social Science	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The nature of God and the problem of evil and suffering.</li> <li>- Different Christian beliefs about creation.</li> <li>- Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance.</li> <li>- Jesus Christ and salvation</li> </ul>	Omnipotent; loving; just; monotheism; Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Word; Genesis; resurrection; judgement; heaven; hell; incarnation; crucifixion; resurrection; ascension; original sin; salvation; atonement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How valid are the arguments about the existence of God?</li> <li>- Why is Christianity the way it is today?</li> <li>- Why does God have so many names?</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity: practices.</li> <li>- Islam: beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- All thematic studies.</li> </ul>
Religion, Crime and Punishment	Theology Philosophy Social Science	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christian beliefs about crime and the causes of crime including good and evil intentions; views about people who break the law and views about different types of crime.</li> <li>- The aims of punishment and how criminals should be treated.</li> <li>- Forgiveness.</li> <li>- Different Christian views on the death penalty.</li> </ul>	Crime; poverty; mental illness; addiction; greed; hate; unjust; good; evil; retribution; deterrence; reformation; prison; corporal punishment; community service; forgiveness; the death penalty; utility; sanctity of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- Why is Christianity the way it is today?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christian practices.</li> <li>- Religion and Life.</li> <li>- Religion, human rights and social justice</li> <li>- Citizenship - the legal system in the UK, different sources of law and how the law helps society deal with complex problems</li> </ul>
Religion, human rights and social justice.	Theology Philosophy Social Science	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights including prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief; issues of equality (race, gender and sexuality).</li> <li>- Christian attitudes towards wealth and how it should be used.</li> <li>- Poverty and its causes</li> <li>- Charity.</li> </ul>	Equality; prejudice; discrimination; freedom of religion; freedom of belief; human rights; social justice; racial prejudice and discrimination; wealth; poverty; usuary; people trafficking; charity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- Religion, Crime and punishment.</li> <li>- To what extent are religions reflections of, or reactions to society?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity practices.</li> <li>- Islam practices.</li> <li>- Citizenship -human rights and international law</li> </ul>

Christianity: practices	Theology Philosophy Social Science	9 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different forms of Christian worship and their use of the Bible and prayer.</li> <li>- The role and meaning of the sacraments especially baptism and the eucharist / Holy Communion.</li> <li>- The role and importance of pilgrimage especially to Lourdes and Iona.</li> <li>- Christian festivals.</li> <li>- The role of the Church in the local community.</li> <li>- The role of the Worldwide Church including working for reconciliation; responding to persecution and poverty.</li> </ul>	Worship; liturgical; non-liturgical; informal; private worship; prayer; the Lord's prayer; set prayers; informal prayers; sacraments; baptism; eucharist; Holy Communion; infant baptism; believers' baptism; Lourdes; Iona; pilgrimage; Christmas; Easter; food banks; street pastors; mission; evangelism; Church growth; reconciliation; persecution; Christian Aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- Why is Christianity the way it is today?</li> <li>- Religion, human rights and social justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Islam practices.</li> <li>- Religion, peace and conflict.</li> <li>- Citizenship -the different ways in which a citizen can contribute to the improvement of his or her community</li> </ul>
Religion and Life	Theology Philosophy Social Science	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christian beliefs about the origin and value of the universe.</li> <li>- Christian beliefs about the use and abuse of animals.</li> <li>- Christian beliefs about the origin and value of human life including the relationship between Christian and scientific views.</li> <li>- Christian and other ethical views on abortion.</li> <li>- Christian and other ethical views on euthanasia.</li> </ul>	Universe; Big Bang theory; creation; stewardship; dominion; the environment; awe; wonder; animal experimentation; evolution; sanctity of life; quality of life; abortion; conception; euthanasia; afterlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christian beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- Religion, crime and punishment.</li> <li>- Why is Jesus important to Christians?</li> <li>- What is the meaning of life?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religion, peace and conflict.</li> </ul>
Islam beliefs and teachings.	Theology Philosophy Social Science	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key beliefs of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims including: Tawhid; the nature of God; the nature and role of angels; predestination and akhirah (life after death).</li> <li>- The main sources of authority for different Muslims including: Risalah (prophethood); Holy books and the Imamate (for Shi'a Muslims).</li> </ul>	Islam; Tawhid; Sunni; Shi'a; omnipotence; beneficence; justice (Adalat); mercy; immanence; transcendence; angels; Jibril; Mika'il; predestination; Day of Judgement; Akhirah; risalah; Adam; Ibrahim; Muhammad; Qur'an; Torah; the Psalms; the Gospel; Imam; Imamate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- What is the meaning of life?</li> <li>- Why does God have so many names?</li> <li>- To what extent are religions reflections of, or reactions to, society?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Islam practices.</li> <li>- Citizenship - diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.</li> </ul>

Islam practices.	Theology Philosophy Social Science	10-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship in Islam including the 5 pillars of Sunni Islam and the 10 Obligatory Acts of Shi'a.</li> <li>- The Shahadah and its place in Muslim worship.</li> <li>- Salah and its significance.</li> <li>- Duties including: sawm; zakah; hajj and jihad.</li> <li>- Festivals and commemorations and their importance for British Muslims today.</li> </ul>	5 pillars; 10 Obligatory Acts; Shahadah; salah; wudu; rak'ah; mosque; Jummah; Friday prayer; sawm; Ramadan; Night of Power; zakah; khums; hajj; Makkah; Mina, Arafat; jihad; Greater jihad; lesser jihad; Id-ul-Adha; Id-ul-Fitr; Ashura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Islam beliefs and teachings.</li> <li>- To what extent are religions reflections of, or reactions to, society?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christian practices.</li> <li>- Religion, Human rights and social justice.</li> <li>- Citizenship - diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding</li> </ul>
Religion, peace and conflict.	Theology Philosophy Social Science	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different Christian views on violence, terrorism and war including the Just War theory, Holy war and pacifism.</li> <li>- Christian views on nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence and the use of other weapons of mass destruction.</li> <li>- Christian responses to the victims of war including the work of Christian Aid.</li> </ul>	Peace; justice; forgiveness; reconciliation; violence; terrorism; greed; self-defence; retaliation; Just War theory; Holy War; pacifism; nuclear weapons; deterrence; Christian Aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christianity practices.</li> <li>- Christianity beliefs and teachings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religion, crime and punishment.</li> <li>- Citizenship - local, regional and international governance</li> </ul>