

Subject: GCSE Religious Studies	Year 11	Ability Mixed
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Term / Date(s)	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Topic	Christian Practices	Marriage & the Family	Islamic Practices	War, Peace & Conflict
Students will learn...	Students will build upon their understanding of Christian beliefs by exploring how these beliefs are expressed through worship, prayer, pilgrimage and the work of the Church. They will examine the diversity of Christian practice across denominations and investigate how worship enables Christians to strengthen their relationship with God and respond to the teachings of Jesus. Throughout the unit, students will explore the importance of mission, evangelism and charity, considering how Christian beliefs continue to influence individuals, communities and society today.	Students will build upon their understanding of religious beliefs about the sanctity of life, human dignity and moral responsibility by exploring religious teachings about relationships, marriage and family life. They will investigate the purpose of marriage, sexual relationships, divorce, gender equality and the nature of the family in contemporary British society. Throughout the unit, students will compare religious and non-religious viewpoints, recognising diversity within religion whilst evaluating the influence of religious beliefs on individuals, families and wider society.	Students will build upon their understanding of Islamic beliefs by exploring how these beliefs are expressed through worship, the Five Pillars, festivals and daily religious practice. They will examine how belief in Tawhid, prophethood, revelation and accountability to Allah influences the way Muslims live their lives. Throughout the unit, students will investigate the significance of worship, charity, fasting and pilgrimage, recognising both the diversity within Islam and the shared practices that unite Muslims across the world. Students will evaluate the importance of religious practice in developing faith, strengthening communities and promoting social responsibility.	Students will build upon their understanding of justice, forgiveness, reconciliation and the sanctity of life by exploring religious responses to conflict, violence and the pursuit of peace. They will investigate religious teachings about peace-making, forgiveness, justice, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and nuclear conflict, considering how religious beliefs influence ethical decision-making in both personal relationships and international affairs. Throughout the unit, students will evaluate a range of religious and non-religious perspectives, applying sources of wisdom and authority to contemporary global issues whilst developing balanced and reasoned arguments.
Components (Golden Knowledge)	Students will understand the purpose and importance of Christian worship, exploring both liturgical and non-liturgical forms of worship, informal and charismatic worship, and the role of private prayer. They will understand how worship enables Christians to praise God, strengthen faith and develop a relationship with Him. Students will investigate the nature and purpose of prayer, including set prayers such as the Lord's Prayer and spontaneous prayer. Students will understand why Christians pray and evaluate how prayer influences the lives of believers. Students will explore the sacraments, focusing on Baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion). Students will understand how different Christian denominations celebrate these sacraments and why they remain central acts of worship for many Christians. Students will examine the significance of pilgrimage, including Lourdes and Iona, understanding how pilgrimage encourages spiritual growth, healing and reflection.	Students will understand the nature and purpose of families, exploring religious teachings about love, stability, protection of children and the importance of family life. They will evaluate changing family structures within contemporary Britain and consider differing religious and secular perspectives. Students will investigate the purpose of marriage, understanding why marriage is regarded as a sacred commitment within Christianity. Students will examine the importance of companionship, mutual support, sexual relationships and the raising of children within marriage. Students will explore religious teachings about divorce and remarriage, considering why marriage is viewed as a lifelong commitment whilst recognising circumstances in which divorce may be permitted. Students will compare differing denominational viewpoints and evaluate the impact of divorce on individuals and families. Students will examine religious attitudes towards sexual relationships, including sex	Students will understand the importance of the Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the additional practices observed within Shi'a Islam, recognising how acts of worship strengthen a Muslim's relationship with Allah and support the worldwide Muslim community (Ummah). Students will investigate the significance of Shahadah, understanding how the declaration of faith reflects the belief in Tawhid and influences every aspect of a Muslim's life. Students will explore the purpose and importance of Salah (prayer), including preparation for prayer, wudu, the use of the mosque, Friday prayer (Jumu'ah) and the significance of prayer in developing discipline, obedience and submission to Allah. Students will examine the importance of Zakah and other forms of charitable giving, understanding how generosity, compassion and social justice are rooted in Islamic teachings. Students will evaluate the role of charity in supporting individuals, communities and the wider Ummah.	Students will understand the meaning and significance of peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation, exploring how religious teachings encourage believers to seek peaceful solutions whilst recognising that conflict remains a reality within human society. Students will investigate Christian teachings about peace-making, including Jesus' teachings on loving your neighbour, loving your enemies and the importance of forgiveness. Students will understand how these teachings influence Christian responses to conflict today. Students will examine the Just War Theory, understanding the criteria that Christians use when considering whether war may ever be morally justified. Students will evaluate differing Christian perspectives, including pacifism and the belief that war should only ever be a last resort. Students will investigate violent protest, terrorism and extremism, considering religious teachings that reject the misuse of religion to justify violence. Students will evaluate the causes and consequences of terrorism and the

	Students will investigate the importance of Christian celebrations, including Christmas and Easter, understanding how these festivals commemorate key events in the life of Jesus and reinforce Christian beliefs studied in Year 10. Students will explore the role of the Church within the local community, including food banks, street pastors, youth work and support for vulnerable members of society. Students will understand how Christian beliefs inspire practical action. Students will investigate the worldwide Church, examining mission, evangelism, reconciliation, persecution and Christian responses to poverty. Students will understand the role of organisations such as Christian Aid and CAFOD in promoting justice and supporting communities across the world. Throughout the unit, students will apply Biblical teachings and sources of wisdom and authority to explain how Christian beliefs influence worship and action in the modern world.	before marriage, adultery, cohabitation and contraception. Students will understand how beliefs about the sanctity of marriage influence religious responses whilst recognising diversity of opinion within faith communities. Students will investigate beliefs about homosexuality, including religious teachings regarding same-sex relationships and marriage. Students will compare these beliefs with UK law and contemporary non-religious perspectives, recognising diversity within Christianity and the importance of respectful discussion. Students will explore gender equality, examining traditional and contemporary views about the roles of men and women within the family, religious communities and wider society. Students will evaluate the influence of religious teachings alongside changing social attitudes. Students will investigate parents' responsibilities towards children and children's responsibilities towards parents, considering religious teachings about love, respect, care and mutual responsibility within family life. Throughout the unit, students will apply sources of wisdom and authority to explain and evaluate religious responses to contemporary issues surrounding relationships and family life.	Students will investigate the significance of Sawm during Ramadan, understanding how fasting develops self-discipline, empathy, gratitude and obedience to Allah. Students will explore the importance of the Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr) and the celebration of Eid ul-Fitr. Students will study Hajj, understanding the origins, key rituals and spiritual significance of pilgrimage to Makkah. Students will evaluate why Hajj is regarded as one of the greatest acts of worship and how it promotes unity amongst Muslims worldwide. Students will examine the role of Jihad, distinguishing between the Greater Jihad (personal spiritual struggle) and Lesser Jihad. Students will understand differing Muslim interpretations and challenge common misconceptions surrounding the term. Students will investigate the significance of Ashura, compare Sunni and Shi'a observance and recognise the historical importance of the festival within Islam. Throughout the unit, students will apply Qur'anic teachings, Hadith and other sources of wisdom and authority to explain and evaluate how Islamic beliefs influence religious practice and daily living.	responsibilities of individuals, governments and faith communities in promoting peace. Students will examine the ethical issues surrounding weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological warfare. Students will evaluate religious and secular arguments for and against their possession and use. Students will investigate the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in resolving conflict, exploring examples from individuals, faith organisations and international peace-making initiatives. Throughout the unit, students will apply religious teachings and contemporary examples to evaluate complex ethical issues, constructing balanced and well-supported arguments using religious evidence and reasoned judgement.
What Students should already know (prior learning components)	Students have studied Christian Beliefs during Year 10 and understand key doctrines including the Trinity, the Incarnation, salvation, resurrection and life after death. Students have explored how Christian beliefs influence moral decision-making through the thematic studies of Religion and Life and Crime and Punishment. Students should understand that Christianity contains a range of denominations whose beliefs and practices may differ whilst remaining united by core Christian teachings.	Students have completed the Religion and Life unit in Year 10 and understand the sanctity of life, stewardship, human dignity and religious approaches to ethical decision-making. Students have studied Christian Beliefs and Islam Beliefs, developing an understanding of the authority of scripture, the nature of God and the influence of religious teachings on believers. Students should recognise that diversity exists within Christianity and Islam and understand that religious beliefs often influence moral choices and family life.	Students have completed the Islam Beliefs unit during Year 10 and understand key doctrines including Tawhid, prophethood (Risalah), angels (Malaikah), holy books, divine decree (Al-Qadr) and Akhirah. Students have also explored how religious beliefs influence ethical decision-making through the thematic studies of Religion and Life and Crime and Punishment. Students should understand that there is diversity within Islam, particularly between Sunni and Shi'a traditions, whilst recognising the beliefs and practices shared across the Muslim world.	Students have studied Crime and Punishment during Year 10 and understand religious teachings about justice, forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation, punishment and human rights. Students have developed an understanding of Christian Beliefs and Islam Beliefs, including the nature of God, moral responsibility, free will, accountability and the sanctity of life. Students have explored how religious beliefs influence ethical decision-making through the thematic studies of Religion and Life and Marriage and the Family, enabling them to apply theological knowledge to contemporary moral issues. Students should understand that diversity exists both within and between Christianity and Islam and that religious believers may reach different conclusions whilst drawing upon the same sources of wisdom and authority.
Transferrable knowledge (skills)	The ability to interpret Biblical teachings and apply them to Christian worship and practice.	The ability to apply religious teachings to contemporary ethical issues relating to relationships and family life.	The ability to interpret Qur'anic teachings and Hadith as sources of wisdom and authority.	The ability to apply religious beliefs and teachings to contemporary national and international issues.

	The ability to explain how beliefs influence religious practice and daily life. The ability to compare similarities and differences between Christian denominations. The ability to analyse the influence of Christianity on individuals, communities and wider society. The ability to construct balanced AO1 and AO2 responses using appropriate religious evidence. The ability to evaluate the significance of worship, prayer and mission in the lives of Christians today. The ability to communicate respectfully about differing religious practices and traditions.	The ability to compare religious and non-religious perspectives fairly and respectfully. The ability to analyse how beliefs influence attitudes towards marriage, divorce and sexual relationships. The ability to interpret Biblical and Qur'anic teachings as sources of wisdom and authority. The ability to construct balanced AO1 and AO2 responses using accurate religious knowledge and justified evaluation. The ability to appreciate diversity within and between religious traditions whilst recognising shared beliefs and values. The ability to communicate thoughtfully and respectfully about sensitive moral and ethical issues	The ability to explain how Islamic beliefs influence worship, behaviour and daily life. The ability to compare similarities and differences between Sunni and Shi'a practices with sensitivity and accuracy. The ability to analyse the influence of religion on individuals, communities and global society. The ability to construct balanced AO1 and AO2 responses using accurate religious knowledge and supported evaluation. The ability to appreciate religious diversity whilst recognising shared beliefs and values within Islam. The ability to communicate respectfully about religious traditions and challenge misconceptions through informed discussion.	The ability to analyse and evaluate differing religious and secular perspectives using evidence and reasoned judgement. The ability to interpret different religious teachings as sources of wisdom and authority when considering ethical issues. The ability to compare religious responses to war, peace and conflict whilst recognising diversity of interpretation. The ability to construct sophisticated AO1 and AO2 responses supported by accurate religious knowledge and justified evaluation. The ability to engage respectfully with controversial and sensitive issues whilst appreciating differing beliefs and opinions. The ability to reflect critically upon personal values and develop informed, balanced conclusions.
Key vocabulary pupil will know and recall	Worship Liturgical Non-Liturgical Informal worship charismatic worship Prayer The Lord's Prayer Sacrament Baptism Infant Baptism Believer's Baptism Eucharist Holy Communion Pilgrimage Lourdes Iona Mission Evangelism Reconciliation Persecution Church CAFOD Christian Aid Food Bank	Marriage Civil Partnership Cohabitation Commitment Sacrament Divorce Remarriage Adultery Fidelity Sexual Relationships Contraception Family Nuclear Family Extended Family Gender Equality Gender Prejudice Homosexuality Same-sex Marriage Sanctity of Marriage Procreation Parenthood Responsibility Human Dignity	Five Pillars Shahadah Salah Wudu Rak'ah Jumu'ah Mosque (Masjid) Zakah Sadaqah Ummah Sawm Ramadan Laylat al-Qadr Eid ul-Fitr Hajj Makkah Ka'aba Mina Arafat Jamarat Greater Jihad Lesser Jihad Ashura Submission Obedience	Peace Justice Reconciliation Forgiveness Conflict Violence Pacifism Just War Holy War Self-defence Terrorism Extremism Protest Violent Protest nuclear weapons, Weapons of Mass Destruction Retaliation Peace making Human Rights Compassion Mercy Reconciliation Sanctity of Life
Assessment activities	Retrieval quizzes revisiting Christian Beliefs from Year 10. Regular recall of key theological and practical vocabulary. Interpretation of Biblical teachings relating to worship and mission. Comparative activities exploring different Christian denominations. Practice of AQA GCSE question types (1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks). Extended evaluative essays using evidence from scripture and Christian practice. End of unit assessment completed under timed examination conditions.	Retrieval quizzes revisiting Religion and Life and Christian Beliefs. Recall of key religious teachings and specialist vocabulary. Analysis of Biblical and Qur'anic teachings relating to marriage and family. Comparative activities exploring Christian, Muslim and secular viewpoints. Practice of AQA GCSE question types (1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks). Extended evaluative essays requiring balanced arguments and justified conclusions. End of unit assessment completed under timed examination conditions.	Retrieval quizzes revisiting Islam Beliefs and Year 10 thematic studies. Recall and application of key Qur'anic teachings and specialist vocabulary. Interpretation of sources of wisdom and authority relating to Islamic worship. Comparative activities exploring Sunni and Shi'a traditions. Practice of AQA GCSE question types (1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks). Extended evaluative essays requiring balanced arguments supported by religious evidence. End of unit assessment completed under timed examination conditions.	Retrieval quizzes revisiting all Year 10 and Year 11 units. Regular recall of specialist religious and ethical vocabulary. Interpretation of Biblical and Qur'anic teachings relating to justice, peace and conflict. Comparative activities exploring Christian, Muslim and secular responses to contemporary global issues. Practice of all AQA GCSE question types (1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks). Extended evaluative essays requiring balanced arguments supported by evidence from sources of wisdom and authority. Full GCSE-style assessments completed under timed examination conditions to prepare students for the final examination.
Notes Why this topic is important Why this topic is important...	This unit enables students to apply the theological understanding developed in Year 10 to the lived experience of Christians today. By examining worship, sacraments, prayer and the mission of the Church, students develop a deeper understanding of how Christian beliefs are expressed through religious practice and service to others.	This unit enables students to deepen their understanding of how religious beliefs influence personal relationships, family life and moral decision-making within contemporary society. Building upon the ethical principles explored in Religion and Life, students investigate how beliefs about the sanctity of life, human dignity and religious authority shape religious	This unit enables students to apply the theological understanding developed during Islam Beliefs to the lived experiences of Muslims today. Students explore how belief in Allah, revelation, accountability and the afterlife is expressed through worship, charity, fasting and pilgrimage, gaining a deeper understanding of the relationship between belief and practice.	This unit provides the culmination of students' GCSE Religious Studies journey by bringing together the theological knowledge, ethical understanding and evaluative skills developed throughout Years 10 and 11. Students apply Christian and Muslim beliefs about justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, the sanctity of life and human dignity to contemporary issues

	Students explore the diversity of Christian worship and appreciate that practices vary between denominations whilst remaining rooted in shared beliefs about God, Jesus and salvation. Through the study of local and global Church activities, students recognise the continuing influence of Christianity within communities and its contribution to issues such as poverty, reconciliation and social justice. The unit strengthens students' ability to interpret sources of wisdom and authority, analyse differing perspectives and construct balanced evaluative arguments supported by evidence. These skills prepare students for the remaining thematic studies and support success in the GCSE examination. Christian Practices also reinforces the curriculum journey established in Year 10 by demonstrating how beliefs shape actions. Students build upon their knowledge of Christian doctrine before applying it to questions surrounding family life, peace and conflict, and wider ethical decision-making throughout the remainder of the course.	responses to marriage, divorce, sexuality and gender equality. Students develop an appreciation of the diversity of family life within modern Britain whilst recognising the continuing importance of religious teachings for many individuals and communities. They are encouraged to consider differing viewpoints with empathy and respect, recognising that religious traditions often contain a range of interpretations and practices. The study of Marriage and the Family strengthens students' ability to interpret sources of wisdom and authority, analyse ethical issues and construct balanced evaluative arguments supported by evidence. These skills prepare students for success in the GCSE examination whilst encouraging thoughtful engagement with issues that remain highly relevant throughout adult life. The unit also reinforces the curriculum journey by demonstrating how religious beliefs explored in Year 10 continue to shape moral choices, relationships and society today. Students are encouraged to reflect critically upon their own values whilst developing respect for the beliefs and experiences of others within an increasingly diverse society.	Students develop an appreciation of the diversity within Islam whilst recognising the shared practices that unite Muslims throughout the world. By studying the Five Pillars and key Islamic festivals, students understand how religious practice strengthens individual faith, promotes community cohesion and encourages social responsibility. The unit challenges misconceptions about Islam by encouraging students to engage thoughtfully with authentic Islamic teachings and contemporary examples. Students strengthen their ability to interpret sources of wisdom and authority, analyse differing perspectives and construct balanced evaluative arguments using evidence. Islam Practices completes the study of Islam within the GCSE course by demonstrating how beliefs shape worship, identity and everyday life. The knowledge and analytical skills developed throughout the unit support success in the GCSE examination and contribute to students' understanding of religious diversity within modern Britain and the wider global community.	surrounding war, terrorism, peace-making and global conflict. By examining both religious and non-religious responses to conflict, students develop a deeper understanding of the moral complexity surrounding international relations and the challenges of promoting peace within an increasingly interconnected world. They are encouraged to evaluate differing viewpoints thoughtfully, recognising that sincere religious believers may reach different conclusions whilst drawing upon shared sources of wisdom and authority. The study of War, Peace and Conflict strengthens students' ability to interpret religious teachings, analyse ethical dilemmas and construct balanced evaluative arguments using evidence and reasoned judgement. These skills prepare students for success in the GCSE examination whilst also equipping them to engage critically and respectfully with important moral and social issues beyond the classroom.
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