



Year 12 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 1: Philosophy of Religion (Religious Studies)



	Topics/ content outline:	Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)	What will you be assessed on?	How can you help at home?
Autumn Term	Term 1a: - Ancient philosophical influences Term 1b: - Soul, mind and body	In this unit, you will study ancient philosophical influences that have shaped religious and philosophical thinking, including ideas from key thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle. You will then explore views on the soul, mind and body, examining whether humans are best understood as physical beings, spiritual beings, or a combination of both, and how these ideas continue to influence religious belief today.	You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.	- Test key terminology from this unit - Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding - Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.
Spring Term	Term 2a: - Arguments based on observation Term 2b: - Arguments based on reason	In this unit, you will examine arguments for the existence of God based on observation, including how the world appears ordered, purposeful or designed. You will then explore arguments based on reason, focusing on abstract philosophical thinking about cause, necessity and existence, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments.		- Test key terminology from this unit - Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding - Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.
Summer Term	Term 3a: - Religious experience Term 3b: - The problem of evil	In this unit, you will explore the nature and impact of religious experience, considering whether such experiences support religious belief and how they can be understood and evaluated. You will then examine the problem of evil and suffering, exploring why it presents a challenge to belief in God and how religious thinkers have responded to this issue.		- Test key terminology from this unit - Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding - Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.



Year 12 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 2: Religion and ethics (Religious Studies)



Autumn Term

Topics/ content outline:

Term 1a:

- Natural law

Term 1b:

- Situation ethics

Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)

In this unit, you will study Natural Law, exploring the idea that moral principles are built into human nature and can be discovered through reason. You will then examine Situation Ethics, focusing on the role of love, intention and context in moral decision-making, and comparing how different ethical approaches guide human actions.

What will you be assessed on?

You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.

How can you help at home?

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Spring Term

Term 2a:

- Kantian ethics

Term 2b:

- Utilitarianism

In this unit, you will study Kantian ethics, focusing on the role of reason, duty and moral rules in guiding ethical behaviour. You will then examine Utilitarianism, exploring how moral decisions are made by considering consequences and aiming to produce the greatest good for the greatest number, and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of both approaches.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Summer Term

Term 3a:

- Euthanasia

Term 3b:

- Business ethics

In this unit, you will examine euthanasia as a contemporary ethical issue, exploring different definitions, moral arguments and religious perspectives surrounding the value of life and moral responsibility. You will then study business ethics, considering ethical issues such as profit, honesty, corporate responsibility and the treatment of workers, and evaluating how ethical theories are applied in the modern business world.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.



Year 12 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 3: Development in Christian thought (Religious Studies)



Autumn Term

Topics/ content outline:

Term 1a:

- Augustine's teaching on human nature

Term 1b:

- Death and the afterlife

Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)

In this unit, you will study Augustine's teaching on human nature, exploring ideas such as original sin, free will and the relationship between humanity and God. You will then examine beliefs about death and the afterlife, considering different Christian views on life after death and how these beliefs influence understanding of human nature and moral responsibility.

What will you be assessed on?

You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.

How can you help at home?

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Spring Term

Term 2a:

- Knowledge of God's existence

Term 2b:

- The person of Jesus Christ

In this unit, you will explore different ways Christians claim to have knowledge of God's existence, including philosophical arguments, religious experience and revelation. You will then study the person of Jesus Christ, examining key Christian beliefs about his nature, role and significance, and how different interpretations of Jesus have shaped Christian theology.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Summer Term

Term 3a:

- Christian moral principles

Term 3b:

- Christian moral action

In this unit, you will study key Christian moral principles, exploring ideas such as love, justice, forgiveness and the authority of scripture and tradition in moral decision-making. You will then examine Christian moral action, considering how these principles are put into practice in everyday life and in response to social and ethical issues in the contemporary world.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.



Year 13 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 1: Philosophy of Religion (Religious Studies)



	Topics/ content outline:	Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)	What will you be assessed on?	How can you help at home?
Autumn Term	Term 1a: - The nature and attributes of God Term 1b: - Religious language, negative, analogical or symbolic	In this unit, you will study the nature and attributes of God, exploring key ideas such as omnipotence, omnibenevolence and omniscience, and how these qualities shape religious belief. You will then examine religious language, including negative, analogical and symbolic approaches, considering whether language about God is meaningful and how it can be understood.	You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.	- Test key terminology from this unit - Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding - Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.
Spring Term	Term 2: Religious language, twentieth-century perspectives	In this unit, you will explore twentieth-century perspectives on religious language, examining how modern philosophers have questioned whether statements about God are meaningful. You will study ideas such as verification, falsification and language games, and consider how these approaches challenge or defend the use of religious language.		- Test key terminology from this unit - Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding - Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.



Year 13 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 2: Religion and ethics (Religious Studies)



Autumn Term

Topics/ content outline:

Term 1:

- Meta-ethical theories

Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)

In this unit, you will explore meta-ethical theories, focusing on the nature and meaning of ethical language. You will examine whether moral statements express facts, emotions or social conventions, and consider debates about objectivity, relativism and whether moral truth exists.

What will you be assessed on?

You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.

How can you help at home?

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Spring Term

Term 2a:

- Conscience

Term 2b:

- Sexual ethics

In this unit, you will study the concept of conscience, exploring different religious and philosophical understandings of how moral decisions are guided. You will then examine sexual ethics, considering contemporary moral debates and how ethical theories and religious beliefs influence attitudes towards relationships, marriage and sexual behaviour.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.



Year 13 Curriculum Overview: UNIT 3: Development in Christian thought (Religious Studies)



Autumn Term

Topics/ content outline:

Term 1a:

- Religious pluralism and theology

Term 1b:

- Religious pluralism and society

Powerful Knowledge (key concepts, skills)

In this unit, you will explore religious pluralism and theology, examining different Christian responses to the existence of multiple religions and debates about truth, salvation and tolerance. You will then consider religious pluralism in society, focusing on how religious diversity shapes communities, identity and social cohesion in the modern world.

What will you be assessed on?

You will sit one 2-hour written examination worth 120 marks. The paper contains three extended essay questions, each worth 40 marks, which may draw on knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the whole course.

How can you help at home?

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.

Spring Term

Term 2a:

- Gender, society and theology

Term 2b:

- The challenge of secularism, liberation theology and Marx

In this unit, you will explore issues of gender, society and theology, examining feminist theology and debates about equality, authority and the role of women within Christianity. You will then study challenges to religious belief from secularism, liberation theology and Marxist thought, considering how religion has been criticised, defended and reshaped in response to social, political and economic injustice.

- Test key terminology from this unit
- Go through knowledge organisers and check understanding
- Support with the creation of essay planning to ensure there is a balance of issues and responses.