



The curriculum for this stage of students' education has been designed to enable them to develop their understanding of Christian beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority so that they engage with how these beliefs impact on a person's everyday life and practices. Our aim is to build on the knowledge and understanding of Biblical teachings and religious literacy in KS3, giving students a firm foundation to develop their knowledge. They will also have the opportunity to examine divergent non-religious views from humanist and atheistic perspectives to develop their critical evaluation and analysis skills. In addition, this stage will allow us to give real depth and breadth to the study of Catholic Christianity and Judaism as living faiths in modern Britain.

HALF TERM 1: Area of Study 3 - Section 1: Philosophy: Arguments for the Existence of God

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- Key Catholic and other Christian beliefs.
- Philosophical sources of wisdom and authority.
- Philosophy key terms and meanings.
- Biblical revelations: how they help Christians to understand Jesus and God; how they are proof of God's existence.
- Visions: how they help Christians to understand Jesus and God; how they are proof of God's existence.
- Miracles: how they help Christians to understand Jesus and God; how they are proof of God's existence.
- Catholic attitudes to religious experiences and atheistic responses that they do not prove God's existence.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

In-class exam questions and key terms and meanings tests.

HALF TERM 2: Area of Study 3 - Section 1: Philosophy: Arguments for the Existence of God

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- The design argument: how it shows the nature of God; atheistic responses to it from science.
- The cosmological argument: Catholic responses to non-religious arguments against it.
- Issues raised by the existence of suffering in relation to God's nature; how it can lead to atheism.
- Biblical, practical and theoretical responses to suffering and divergent Christian views regarding their success.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

End of section test using GCSE exam questions: (a) (b) (c) (d)

HALF TERM 3: Area of Study 3: Section 2: Ethics: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- Key Catholic and other Christian beliefs.
- Ethical sources of wisdom and authority.
- Ethics key terms and meanings.
- The importance and purpose of marriage.
- Catholic teachings on sexual relationships.
- Catholic teachings on the purpose of family.
- Support for the family in the local parish.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

Independent study booklet activities, covering the above bullet points.

In-class exam questions and key terms and meanings tests.

HALF TERM 4: Area of Study 3: Section 2: Ethics: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- Catholic teaching on family planning and the regulation of births.
- Catholic teaching on divorce, remarriage and annulment.
- Catholic teaching on equality of men and women in the family.
- Catholic teachings about gender prejudice and discrimination.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

End of section test using GCSE exam questions: (a) (b) (c) (d)

HALF TERM 5: Area of Study 2: Section 1: Jewish Beliefs and Teachings

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- Core divergent Jewish views.
- Jewish sources of wisdom and authority.
- Hebrew key terms and meanings.
- The nature of the Almighty.
- The nature of the Shekhinah.
- The nature and purpose of the Messiah.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

In-class exam questions and key terms and meanings tests.

HALF TERM 6: Area of Study 2: Section 1: Jewish Beliefs and Teachings

STUDENTS MUST KNOW:

- The covenant at Sinai; the Mosaic covenant.
- The Abrahamic covenant and the importance of the Promised Land.
- Pikuach Nefesh; the sanctity of human life.
- Moral principles and the mitzvot.
- Divergent Jewish views on life after death.

HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: lesson-by-lesson knowledge tests, covering each of the above bullet points.

End of section test using GCSE exam questions: (a) (b) (c) (d)

Embedding this knowledge can be supported at home by having discussions at home about the issues covered in class; watching relevant documentaries and films on Philosophical and Ethical issues; visiting a Synagogue locally or abroad on holiday; visiting religious and historical exhibitions in Birmingham Museum. To stretch and challenge: start reading about Richard Dawkins and his views on God.