



Religious Education

Key Knowledge

- To know that there are Questions that Humans raise about the very existence of life. For example, why I am here? Is there a God? What is the point of life? Is there a purpose to life and how was the world created?
- How was the world created, for atheists it is through the big bang. The **big bang** is how astronomers explain the way the universe began. It is the idea that the universe began as just a single point, then expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is right now—and it is still stretching! Religious believers would argue that the world was created by God. They would use the William Paley argument. He took a watch and observed how complex it is, he argued that such an object could not be made by naturally. It must of has a designer and hence the world is so complicated it must have had a designer also.
- There are many creation stories that offer an alternative on how the world was created. Christians have the 7 day creation story. It explains that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Over 6 days God created plants, birds and fish, mammals and reptiles, and finally man to reign over all created before him. On the last day he rested.
- Is there a God? Some believers would argue that there is a God due to the fact the world could not have come into life by accident. Humans and the world is so complex it must have a designer. Also the belief in answered prayers and unexplainable miracles is proof for some Christians. The Bible is further evidence for Christians that there is a God. However Atheists could argue that there is little or no evidence of a God. That Science has all the answers.

- Is there a purpose to life? For a non believer or an atheist the very purpose of life might be to enjoy oneself, have a family, find a job that satisfies them or find a way that they can help their communities. A believer would argue that the purpose of life is to serve God and help others to their best of their ability. Another purpose it to serve God and be loyal in their convictions.
- It is important to know that the world is not equal. If the world was shrunk to 100 people here is what it would look like.

Christianity is the dominant religion – 31 people identify with the faith. But it's when the video turns to the level of global inequality that the figures start to look really shocking. More than 70% earned \$10 or less a day, while 15% make less than \$2 a day. One person earns more than \$90 a day. And this same person controls 50% of wealth. Basics such as education, shelter and clean water are unequally shared. More than one in 10 people are unable to read and write (14%), don't have access to clean water (13%) or shelter (23%), and are malnourished or starving (16%). Religion teaches it is important to fight for equality and help your fellow man.



Year 7

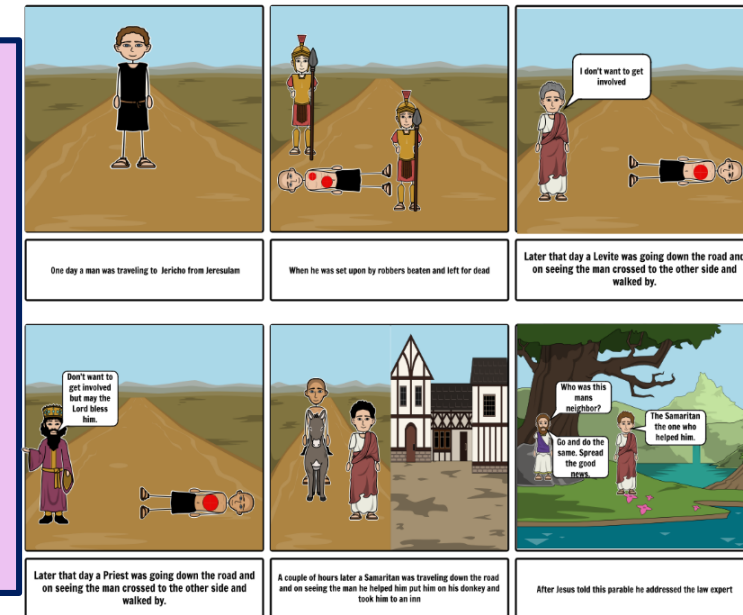
Key Context

Big Questions

Islam: Hadith of Bukhari.	Judaism and Christianity.	Christianity: Matthew 25:31-46	Hinduism: Rig Veda 10,191.4	Non-religious: The Humanist Outlook.	Sikhism: Guru Amardas.
"A man once asked the Prophet Muhammad what was the best thing Islam, and he replied, "It is to feed the hungry and to give the greeting of peace both to those you know and to those you do not know."	"Love the God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. Love your neighbour as you love yourself."	"Whenever you see someone hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and do not look after them, you do not look after me, said Jesus."	"Let your aims be common and your hearts united, and all your hearts united, and all of you be of one mind, so you may live well together."	"The only possible basis for a sound morality is mutual tolerance and respect: tolerance of one another's customs and opinions, respect for one another's rights and feelings; awareness of one another's needs.	"There is no greater penance than patience, no greater happiness than contentment, no greater evil than greed, no greater virtue than mercy, and no more weapon than forgiveness."

Key Vocabulary

- Theist- someone who believes in God**
- Agnostic- a person who is unsure of their beliefs**
- Atheist- a person who does not believe in God**
- Design argument- if the world is so complicated it must have a designer**
- Big bang- scientific theory about how the world was created**
- Happiness- for some people the ultimate goal in life**
- Bible- the holy book for Christians**



Key Terminology



Key Vocabulary

The Buddha	One who has gained enlightenment. 'The awakened'
The Middle Way	Living in a middle way free from extremes Eg. Not luxury, not poverty. You will crave if you don't have enough, but can become greedy and attached if you have too much.
Four Noble Truths	The four truths about life that the Buddha discovered when he reached enlightenment.
Meditation	The act of clearing and focusing the mind. Deep thinking.
Enlightenment	An awakening, understand the truth of reality.
Samsara	Cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth.
Nirvana	Extinguish, what you enter after enlightenment.
Eightfold Path	The path that the Buddha discovered that will help you reach enlightenment.
Dharma	The Buddha's teachings.
Dukkha	Suffering.

1) Siddhartha renounced his family, belongings and life in the palace (gave them up) in search for the meaning of life, answers to his questions – like why do we suffer?
 He tried extreme methods with the other monks to reach his answers- starvation, extreme indulgence – neither worked. **Discovered the Middle Way.**
 2) He meditated (under Bodhi tree) for 46 days and truly focused, concentrated his mind. Whilst there he struggled with temptation – desire, craving, attachment, anger, jealousy. Eventually, he understood what caused people's sadness and suffering, the truth. It was like waking up. He became the first 'enlightened one'
 He then returned to the monks and taught for the next 50 years, so that others too, could reach enlightenment.

Eightfold Path	What does it mean?
Right Understanding	Accept Buddha's teaching. Understand 4 Noble truths, know truth of Buddha.
Right Emotion	Control emotions, not anger/hatred – instead empathy/love/compassion.
Right Speech	Avoid saying things that hurt others, must say positive. No name calling/no lying.
Right Action	Control actions, follow the precepts. Eg. Don't use violence.
Right Livelihood	Earn a living in a way that is good, make others happy. No greed/selfishness.
Right Effort	Put effort in to live a good life and help suffering.
Right Awareness	Aware of those around you, aware of suffering. Not ignorant. Aware of own actions.
Right Meditation	Spend time meditating, focus/help in living middle way. Train your mind to be calm/positive/wisdom.

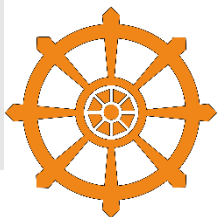
Key Context

3) Siddhartha renounced his family, belongings and life in the palace (gave them up) in search for the meaning of life, answers to his questions – like why do we suffer?
 4) He tried extreme methods with the other monks to reach his answers- starvation, extreme indulgence – neither worked.
 5) **Discovering the Middle Way.** Meditated (under Bodhi tree) for 46 days and truly focused, concentrated his mind. Struggled with temptation – desire, craving, attachment, anger, jealousy. Eventually, he understood what caused people's sadness and suffering, the truth. It was like waking up. He became the first 'enlightened one'
 He then returned to the monks and taught for the next 50 years, so that others too, could reach enlightenment.
6) The Buddha
 Siddhartha Gautama was a prince born 2,500 years ago in India. He became the first Buddha. Once he was born a wise man prophesised that if he saw suffering he would leave the palace in search for answers. His father tried to hide all suffering from the Prince, however he left and saw the Four Sights.

When the Buddha reached his enlightenment he discovered the:
The Four Noble Truths
 1. There is suffering in the world.
 2. Suffering has an origin (cause) – attachment, craving.
 3. Suffering can be stopped.
 4. There is a path out of suffering – if you follow the Buddha's teaching (Dharma).
 Eightfold Path, middle way.

Attachment: the feeling of really loving/being fond of or devoted to someone or something.

Craving: the strong feeling of wanting something, or always longing for more.





Religious Education Year 11 Christian and Hindu practices



Key Knowledge

Hinduism

- Hindus believe that the world was created by Brahman. The Hindu story explains that there was an ocean with a snake upon it. Vishnu rested on the snake and from him grew Brahma, who then set to work and created everything.
- Hindus believe that the cosmic being (purusha) split society into four groups. First came the Brahmins, priests (which came from the cosmic beings head). Then came the Kshatriyas, the warriors (came from the cosmic beings arms). Thirdly there was the Vaishyas, the merchants (who came from his legs). Lastly the Shudras, the servants (who came from his feet). The idea was that all groups are equal and needed for society to run smoothly.
- However later this dividing of society became a rigid concept and people are born into a group and there is little movement.
- The world is split into material you can see and touch (prakriti) and that which is beyond this realm (purusha).
- Hindus also believe in the vaikuntha, a spiritual planet that cannot be seen where the Gods exist.
- Hindus believe that every man has a duty which is dependent on the social group you belong to (varna), the stage of life you are in (ashrama), hence the belief in varnashramadharma.
- Every Hindu must aim to fulfill the four aims of life.

Christianity

- Christians believe that man is born with sin and that Jesus died for us and paid for those sins. Through his death God and man were reconciled and back into a good relationship, atonement.
- The belief is that man had lost its way and was not following the teachings of the Bible. Jesus also came to guide up back to the righteous path.
- Over the years there have been many different groups created within Christianity (denominations). Unfortunately over time these groups have fallen out. The Ecumenical movement seeks to reconcile different Christians and bring them together. Throughout the Christian calendar there are many Ecumenical events, where Christians from different denominations come together to worship. Coventry Cathedral has a whole area dedicated also to the Ecumenical movement and often holds events there for different Christians.
- Taize and Walsingham are the two main places of pilgrimage for Christians. Taize is in France and is often referred to as the city of tents. Many Christians from different denominations come here to pray and live alongside each other. Walsingham is in the UK, there once stood a replica of the place Mary was told she would give birth to our saviour. It has been torn down but Christians still go.

Key Vocabulary

Cosmology	The Hindu belief of the origin and development of the universe
Prakriti	The cosmic material that is the root of all beings (material you can see and touch)
Purusha	Exists beyond the realm of all time and space (material you cannot see or touch)
Four aims	The four goals a Hindu must fulfil in life
Artha	Aim 1- to earn money honestly and provide for families and do well in business
Dharma	Aim 2- to fulfil ones duty
Moksha	Aim 3- to stop the cycle of rebirth and rest with Brahman
Kama	Aim 4- to enjoy the pleasures of life, artistic, social and sensual
Pilgrimage	A religious journey
Ecumenical	To work with different Christian denominations, allowing them to forgive and find peace with each other
Atonement	The reconciliation of Man with God
Salvation	To deliver mans soul from evil through the death of Jesus
Triguna	The three personalities that you could be, raja, sattva, tamas
Santana dharma	All Hindus duties towards Brahman

Taize, Walsingham, Journey, Sin, Jesus, reconciliation, denominations, crucifixion, prakriti, purusha, cosmic being, creation, trimurti, dharma, varnaashramadharma, man, soul, atonement, universe, cosmology



Religious Education Year 10 Christian and Hindu practices



Key Knowledge

Hinduism

1. Some Hindus believe that the whole world and everything within it is all connected to brahman. There is a belief in Maya (that all we are living under an illusion if we believe that we are all separate entities), this belief is called Advaita Vedanta. However there are some Hindus that believe we are in fact separate entities and do not exist as all connected to Brahman. They do not agree with Maya. This is called Dvaita Vedanta.
2. There are two groups within Hinduism, Vaishnavism and Shaivism. The first sect believe that Vishnu is the most important and the second believe that Shiva is the most important. Those that believe in Vaishnavism hold devotional worship towards Vishnu and believe in Dvaita Vedanta. Those that are Shavites worship Shiva in phallic form (an oval shaped black stone with three stripes across the top) and do agree with Advaita Vedanta.
3. Hindus believe in Gurus, religious teachers. They are spiritual leaders within Hinduism. You can honour a Guru through having their picture on a home shrine (mainly for important Gurus that have passed away), or attending their ceremonial gatherings and lectures, or offering money and their service as gratitude.
4. Hindu prayer does not just take the form of Puja the daily ritual. Hindu prayer can occur in the Mandir or at home. It can happen in groups or be an individual affair. The different types of prayer include Aarti, Havan, Drashan, Japa, Bhajan and even Yoga is a form of prayer.

Festivals

1. Easter for Christians is celebrated within the Church. Christians will give prayers and say thanks to God. Some Christians may even reenact the 12 stations of the cross (Jesus' journey to his crucifixion while carrying his cross). Within the Church they will also sing Hymns and take the Eucharist.
2. Christmas is celebrated in Church. Christians will sing hymns, read prayers and bible passages. They will build a replica of the birth of Jesus and make Christingles. Christians will meet Christmas eve and say special prayers and have Eucharist. This is called midnight mass.
3. At Diwali Hindus will clean their homes and decorate them with rangoli patterns, which will sit outside their homes to welcome in the Goddess Laxmi. They will prepare special food and read special prayers and carry out a particular Puja. They will also have fireworks. Money is given also.
4. At Holi a bonfire is lit to remember Prahalad who survived been burnt by his aunty Holika. Special prayers are read and food is prepared.
5. During Rakshabandhan sisters ties rakhi (bracelets) on the wrists of their brothers to protect them against evil influences. They pray for their long life and happiness. In return they receive a gift.

Key Vocabulary

Maya	The illusion that we are separate entities.
Advaita Vedanta	The belief in non dualism, we are separate entities all connected to Brahman
Dvaita Vedanta	The belief in dualism, that everything is separate and we are not connected or one with Brahman
Shaivism	A section within Hinduism that believe Shiva is the most important deity
Vaishnavism	A section within Hinduism that believes Vishnu is the most important
Havan	A Hindu prayer that requires a fire to be used
Aarti	A Hindu prayer that uses an aarti lamp that is lit
Bhajan	A group prayer that uses songs and instruments
Darshan	A quiet prayer, that is only between God and the devotee
Japa	A Hindu prayer using beads. Each bead will represent a prayer
Havan	A fire ritual performed on special occasions by a Hindu priest
Guru	Religious Hindu teacher/spiritual leader
Mandir	Word for Hindu temple

Festivals, Christmas, Easter, Rakshabandhan, Holi, Diwali, celebration, prayer, spirituality, Christingle, Eucharist, holy week, crucifixion, resurrection, Prahlad, Holika, Lakshmi and Bali, Rama, Sita, Laxmana, Ravana, bonfire, fireworks, bracelet

Key Terminology



Beliefs in God

1) Hindus believe in one supreme God called Brahman. He can be found in everyone and everything, Brahman exists in all hearts and is the absolute, ultimate truth. Brahman: God in the Hindu religion. He may take on the form of anything in the world, usually a god or goddess, and each god or goddess has its own personality and appearance. Brahman is present in every person as the eternal spirit or soul, called the atman. This is why Hinduism is a monotheistic religion as they believe only in one true God. Some of the important other Gods include 'Brahma' (the creator), 'Shiva', (the destroyer) and 'Vishnu' (the protector). These three together form the 'Trimurti'.

Other gods include Ganesh (remover of obstacles), Hanuman (the monkey God), Lakshmi (the Goddess of wealth and good fortune, and Vishnu (the God who preserves life and stands up to evil).

2) Krishna and Shakti:

Krishna is the most popular avatar of Vishnu and is worshipped as a god in his own right. Krishna is often shown playing the flute. The vedic scriptures refer to the goddess as the creative energy of Shakti, as the activating force which enables the male gods to exert their power.

3) Nirguna and Saguna:

The Hindu scriptures have two ways of thinking of Brahman that help with understanding him. The first of these is nirguna , which means 'without form' and 'without qualities'. The second way of thinking of Brahman is saguna , which means 'with form' and 'with qualities'

Worship

4) Puja involves images (murtis) and prayers (mantras). Hindu worship is primarily an individual act, as it involves making personal offerings to the gods. The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said. A shrine can be anything: a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues of the gods.

5) Hindu worship can take place at home, where the devotee can create their own prayer and it is personal. Hindus can however worship in groups or at the Mandir, this would then become congregational prayer.

At the centre of the Puja will be the Murti, a statue of one of the deities. There may also be a picture of a

6) Hinduism is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's 3rd largest religion, with about 1.1 billion followers. It is around 5,000 years old. Hindus are the people who follow Hinduism. It is a very complex religion that is followed by different people in different ways. Many gods are worshipped in Hinduism. All of these different Gods are believed to be a part of the supreme God named 'Brahman.' Hindus believe in karma and reincarnation – that when you die you are reborn as something else. Hinduism does not have one holy book, but several sacred texts. Mandirs are Hindu worship buildings.

Key Vocabulary

Monotheism	A religions that believes in one God only
Trimurti	The belief in one God Brahman who has three different aspects to him, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva
Shakti	The female consort to each male deity.
Avatara	Whilst there is only one God, he appears in many forms, these are called avataras
Nirguna	A form of Brahman that has no qualities, cannot be seen or touched just exists all around us
Saguna	A form of Brahman that does have qualities, the different forms of him that we see (the different avataras)
Krishna	A favourite Hindu deity. He is an avatara of Vishnu
Murti	An image or statue of a Hindu God
Deity	Another word for Hindu God
Puja	A Hindu prayer/worship, which can be carried out at home or at the Mandir
Mandir	Hindu holy place of worship
Personal prayer	Hindu prayer that is carried out alone or at home by the worshipper
Congregational prayer	Prayer in groups that is carried out at the Mandir or for a special occasion at home

Key context