



Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Key Stage 3

By the end of the Key Stage 3 students should be able to:

- Explain and interpret ways that the history and culture of religions and worldviews influence individuals and communities, including a wide range of beliefs and practices, in order to appraise reasons why some people support and others question these influences.
- Explain and interpret a range of beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority including experience in order to understand religions and worldviews as coherent systems or ways of seeing the world
- Explain how and why individuals and communities express the meanings of their beliefs and values in many different forms and ways of living, enquiring into the variety, differences and relationships that exist within and between them.
- Explain the religions and worldviews which they encounter clearly, reasonably and coherently; evaluate them, drawing on a range of introductory level approaches recognised in the study of religion or theology.
- Observe and interpret a wide range of ways in which commitment and identity are expressed. They develop insightful analysis and evaluation of controversies about commitment to religions and worldviews, accounting for the impact of diversity within and between communities.
- Consider and evaluate the question: what is religion? Analyse the nature of religion using the main disciplines by which religion **is studied**.
- Explore some of the ultimate questions that are raised by human life, making well-informed and reasoned personal responses and expressing insights that draw on a wide range of examples including the arts, media and philosophy.
- Examine and evaluate issues about community relations and respect for all in the light of different perspectives from varied religions and worldviews.
- Explore and express insights into significant moral and ethical questions posed by being human in ways that are well-informed and which invite personal response, using reasoning which may draw on a range of examples from real life, fiction or other forms of media.

In Key Stage 3 students study the following topics:

Year 7:

- Introduction to philosophical thinking
- A study of Christian beliefs about the nature of God
- Islamic beliefs and practices
- Religious and Non-religious views on the origins of the universe and ethical arguments about looking after the planet

Year 8:

- A study of beliefs about life after death looking at Christian, Hindu and atheist perspectives.
- Introduction to ethical thinking looking at philosophical thought experiments, Christian and Humanist perspectives
- Different attitudes to the use of violence within Hinduism
- A study of the book of Exodus from Jewish and Christian perspectives looking at its themes of liberation and its lasting influence on the world today
- Attitudes to poverty and Charity looking at Christian and Humanist perspectives

Year 9:

- Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God
- Ethical issues -abortion, capital punishment, genetic engineering, animal rights
- Religious and non-religious responses to evil and suffering