

Subject Overview Religious Studies – Year 8

Students will build on their Year 7 learning to explore deeper questions about belief, morality, and human purpose. They will examine a range of worldviews, including Humanism and Hinduism, and consider how religious teachings respond to issues like suffering and right and wrong. Through this, they will develop thoughtful, reflective approaches to big life questions.

	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6
Knowledge & Skills	<p>Unit 1: Understanding Humanism (5 Lessons)</p> <p>In Understanding Humanism, students learn about key Humanist beliefs such as reason, empathy, and non-religious ethics. They develop skills in comparing worldviews, evaluating moral ideas, and thinking critically about different beliefs.</p>	<p>Unit 2: Understanding Hinduism (6 Lessons)</p> <p>Students learn about the Students will explore key Hindu beliefs such as dharma, karma, samsara, and moksha, as well as the role of deities and pilgrimage. They will develop skills in interpreting religious ideas, comparing beliefs, and thinking critically about how Hinduism influences daily life and moral decisions.</p>	<p>Unit 3: How did we get here? (8 Lessons)</p> <p>In the topic How did we get here?, students explore religious and non-religious answers to the origins of the world, including creation stories and scientific explanations. They develop skills in interpreting beliefs, comparing worldviews, and reflecting on how awe, wonder, stewardship, and dominion influence attitudes towards the environment.</p>	<p>Unit 4: How do we know right from wrong? (6 Lessons)</p> <p>Students explore moral decision-making through the lenses of absolutism and relativism. They develop disciplinary knowledge by examining ethical theories and applying them to real-life situations. Key skills include analysing arguments, comparing viewpoints, and evaluating how different beliefs shape ideas about right and wrong.</p>	<p>Unit 5: Matriarchs of the Bible (6 lessons)</p> <p>students explore the stories of key biblical women, examining their roles, challenges, and agency. They develop skills in interpreting texts, analysing perspectives, and debating how these women are portrayed—as empowered figures or sufferers—within religious and historical contexts.</p>	<p>Unit 6: Why do we suffer? (5 Lessons)</p> <p>Students explore religious and non-religious explanations for suffering, including concepts like karma, free will, and the problem of evil. They develop skills in analysing different viewpoints, evaluating responses to suffering, and reflecting on personal and ethical questions about pain and hardship.</p>
			<p style="text-align: center;">Assessment 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Mark Assessment • Students will be assessed on knowledge covered in Y7/8 • Extended writing: • 1 x 5 Mark question (Describe) • 1 x 8 Mark question (Explain) 		<p style="text-align: center;">Assessment 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Mark Assessment • Students will be assessed on all knowledge covered in Y7/8 • Extended writing: • 1 x 5 Mark question (Describe) • 1 x 8 Mark question (Explain) 	

See next page for “Beyond The Curriculum”

Beyond The Curriculum	<p><u>Suggested Places to Visit</u> <i>The Peace Museum, Bradford</i> <i>The People's History Museum – Manchester</i></p>	<p><u>Suggested Reading</u> <i>What is Humanism?</i> by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young <i>The Philosophy Files</i> by Stephen Law <i>Great Thinkers: Simple Ideas That Changed the World</i> by The School of Life <i>Big Questions from Little People</i> by Gemma Elwin Harris</p>	<p><u>Suggested Places to Visit</u> Go and experience the beauty our local area has to offer and experience the feeling of awe and wonder! <i>Hardcastle Crags</i> (Hebden Bridge) <i>Ilkley Moor (Ilkley)</i> <i>Brimham Rocks</i> (near Pateley Bridge) <i>Otley Chevin Forest Park</i> (Otley)</p>	<p><u>Suggested Places to Visit</u> <i>The Peace Museum (Bradford)</i> <i>Royal Armouries Museum (Leeds)</i> <i>People's History Museum (Manchester)</i> <i>Imperial War Museum North (Manchester)</i></p>	<p><u>Suggested Places to Visit</u> <i>The People's History Museum (Manchester)</i> <i>The Hepworth Wakefield (Wakefield)</i></p>	<p><u>Suggested Places to Visit</u> <i>The Holocaust Centre North (Huddersfield)</i> <i>National Science and Media Museum (Bradford)</i> <i>The National Holocaust Centre and Museum</i> (Nottinghamshire)</p>
	<p><u>Suggested Reading</u> <i>Amritsar to Lahore</i> by Stephen Alter</p>	<p><u>Suggested Reading</u> <i>What Do You Believe?</i> by DK Publishing <i>What Is Right and Wrong?</i> by Michael Rosen & Annemarie Young <i>Noughts and Crosses</i> by Malorie Blackman <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak</p>	<p><u>Suggested Reading</u> <i>Women of the Bible</i> by Jean E. Syswerda <i>Biblical Women</i> (DK Eyewitness Books) <i>The Red Tent</i> by Anita Diamant (Young Readers Edition) <i>Sarah Laughs</i> by Sally Lloyd-Jones <i>Esther: Royal Beauty</i> by Louise Page</p>	<p><u>Suggested Reading</u> <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> (Young Readers Edition) <i>The Book of Joy (Young Readers Edition)</i> by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu <i>Refugee</i> by Alan Gratz <i>Out of the Dust</i> by Karen Hesse</p>		

