

Subject Overview Religious Studies – Year 8

Religious Studies helps students explore a range of beliefs, values, and worldviews. It encourages respectful discussion, critical thinking, and understanding of different perspectives, preparing learners to engage with the diverse world around them.

	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6
Knowledge & Skills	Unit 1: Understanding Humanism 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.	Unit 2: Understanding Sikhism Origins, core beliefs, and lived practices of the Sikh tradition, focusing on the teachings of the Ten Gurus and the establishment of the Khalsa. The significance of the Guru Granth Sahib. The role of the 5 Ks, The ethical commitment to service (Seva), students investigate how Sikhs live out their faith in the modern world. This unit fosters cultural literacy and encourages students to evaluate contemporary issues, such as the expression of religious identity in public life, through the lens of Sikh values.	Unit 3: How did we get here? 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.	Unit 3: How did we get here? Assessment 2 • 18 Mark Assessment • Students will be assessed on all knowledge covered in Y7/8 • Extended writing: • 1 x 8 Mark question (Explain)	Unit 4: How do we know right from wrong? 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.	Unit 5: Matriarchs of the Bible (6 lessons) 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.
		Assessment 1 • 18 Mark Assessment • Students will be assessed on knowledge covered in Y7/8 • Extended writing: • 1 x 8 Mark question (Explain)				

See next page for “Beyond The Curriculum”

Beyond The Curriculum	<u>Places to Visit</u> <i>The Peace Museum, Bradford</i> <i>The People's History Museum – Manchester</i> <u>Books to Read</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	<u>Places to Visit</u> <i>Royal Armouries Museum</i> <i>Leeds</i> <i>Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara</i> <i>Bradford</i> <u>Books to Read</u> <i>My Name is Tani</i> - Tani Kaur <i>Ajay and the Mumbai Sun</i>-Varsha Shah	<u>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 Crag</i> (<i>Hebden Bridge</i>) <i>Ilkley Moor</i> (<i>Ilkley</i>) <i>Brimham Rocks</i> (<i>near Pateley Bridge</i>) <i>Otley Chevin Forest Park</i> (<i>Otley</i>) <u>Books to Read</u> <i>In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World</i> by Virginia Hamilton <i>This Book is Not Rubbish</i> by Isabel Thomas <i>The Last Wild</i> by Piers Torday <i>Floodland</i> by Marcus Sedgwick		<u>Places to Visit</u> <i>The Peace Museum</i> (<i>Bradford</i>) <i>Royal Armouries Museum</i> (<i>Leeds</i>) <i>People's History Museum</i> (<i>Manchester</i>) <i>Imperial War Museum North</i> (<i>Manchester</i>) <u>Books to Read</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	<u>Places to Visit</u> <i>The People's History Museum (Manchester)</i> <i>The Hepworth Wakefield</i> (<i>Wakefield</i>) <u>Books to Read</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 (<i>Young Readers Edition</i>) <i>Sarah Laughs</i> by Sally Lloyd-Jones <i>Esther: Royal Beauty</i> by Louise Page
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