



Getting Ready for...

KS4 (GCSE) RS

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Activities

1. The Nature of God

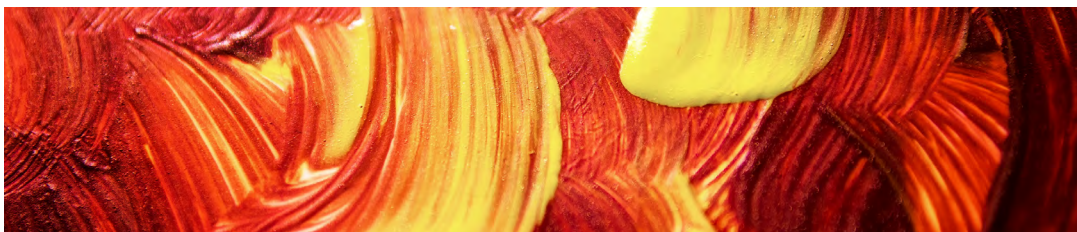
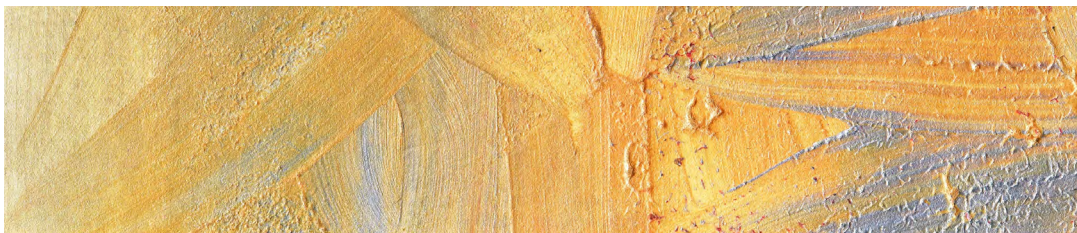
Christians are monotheists, meaning that they believe in one God. They believe that God has three persons; this is known as the Doctrine of the Trinity.

- Can you create a poster explaining Christian beliefs about the nature of God? Make clear that while Christians are monotheists, they believe in the Doctrine of the Trinity. Show the different persons of the Trinity. Only use key terms as the words on your poster.
- Can you extend this by researching and comparing Christian beliefs about the nature of God with what Muslims believe about the nature of God? Write a paragraph explaining any similarities and differences that you find.

2. Life After Death

Religious believers do not agree what happens after a person has died. Some religions believe that after a person dies, there is a place for those who have been good and a place for those who have been bad. They may believe that people are resurrected too. Other religions suggest that after death, individuals are reincarnated; this means that they will be reborn into another body. Their behaviour in a previous life will affect their next rebirth.

- Can you create a Venn diagram comparing religious ideas about resurrection with religious ideas about reincarnation? Do some research online or in textbooks if you need to.
- Can you extend this further by evaluating these different religious beliefs? Write a paragraph explaining what you find persuasive or unpersuasive about these different beliefs. Try and use a variety of reasons and evidence in your evaluation.





3. Creation

Christians believe that God is the creator of the universe, but there are different ways that Christians understand what it means to say that God created the universe.

- Can you explain the differences in beliefs amongst different Christian groups when it comes to creation?
- Can you imagine and write a Twitter conversation between a Literalist Christian and a Progressive Christian about what it means to say that God created the universe? Make sure you refer to how they interpret what the Bible says about creation, with special attention given to the ways they understand the Genesis creation stories.
- Can you extend this further by creating a hashtag for the different approaches? Come up with a short phrase which you think best sums up what these different Christians think about God as the creator of the universe.

4. Sacred Writings: The Bible

Christians use the Bible to help guide them in their everyday lives. It contains teachings that can be applied to the moral issues that Christians face.

- Can you design a leaflet explaining how Christians can use the Bible as a guidebook for life? Make sure you explain how the different parts of the Bible may help Christians understand what the right thing to do is when facing a difficult ethical decision.
- Can you extend this by evaluating the claim “The Bible is not a good guidebook for life in the 21st century”? Explain your own opinion with reasons and evidence to support your claims. Try and use a direct Bible quotation within your answer.

5. Festivals

Festivals are important to religious believers. It is an opportunity for religious communities to come together and celebrate their faith.

- Choose a religious festival and write a blog post about how believers celebrate this festival. Imagine a friend invited you to celebrate your chosen festival with them and their family. Make sure you use key words and explain their meanings for your readers.
- Can you extend this by finishing your blogpost with an explanation of why festivals are important for believers? Try and give a range of reasons in your explanation.





6. Relationships and Family

Religious teachings impact upon every aspect of a believer's life. Believers may look to their religion for guidance about how they should act in romantic relationships.

- Can you explain what two different religions teach about sex before marriage? Make sure you explain how their beliefs have been inspired by the teachings of their holy books.
- Can you extend this by showing the differences in attitudes towards sex before marriage within the religions you have chosen? Remember not all members of a religion have the same attitudes about sex before marriage. Explain why this is the case.

7. Abortion

Abortion is the deliberate ending of a pregnancy, and it has been legal in England, Scotland and Wales since 1967. But, there are different opinions within society about abortion and whether it is acceptable. Those who believe abortion is acceptable are often called “pro-choice”, while those who believe that abortion is wrong are often called “pro-life.”

- Can you explain the reasons that these different groups give for their viewpoints? Make a table with two columns to display the different reasons. Label one column “pro-choice” and the other column “pro-life.”
- Can you extend this by evaluating the two different viewpoints? Explain what you think about the reasons offered and why you find some reasons more persuasive than others.

8. Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Much has been made about the status and role of women within religion. Some people claim that women are treated as second class citizens by their religions while others believe that religions promote equality as they teach that everyone is made by God.

- Can you write a short newspaper article explaining the status of women within Christianity and Islam? Show the similarities and differences between the religions and within them too. Make sure you refer to the influence of the Bible and the Qur'an on the attitudes of Christians and Muslims.
- Can you extend this by concluding your article with your own opinion about this quotation: “Religions suggest that women are not as important as men”? Link back to the different points you have raised in your newspaper article and make clear why you feel as you do.





9. Religion, Peace and Conflict

Just War theory is the idea that there are conditions which could be used to decide whether a war is justified, meaning that it is being fought for a good reason. There are two parts to the Just War theory; conditions deciding if going to war in the first place is justified, and conditions regarding how the war is fought.

- Can you research the different conditions that can be used to decide whether a war is a just war or not? Then, create a spider diagram, showing the different conditions. Create a key and use two colours to show which conditions relate to deciding if it is justified to go to war and which conditions relate to how the war is fought.
- Can you extend this by choosing and researching a war from history and applying the conditions of Just War theory to see if this war was justified? Write a paragraph to sum up if you think this war has met the conditions of Just War theory, making sure you give evidence to explain your decision.

10. Does God exist?

One of the ultimate questions is “Does God exist?” Theists believe God does exist, atheists believe God doesn’t, and agnostics aren’t sure or believe that it’s impossible for us to know for certain. Theists and atheists offer reasons to support their viewpoints.

- Can you research arguments for and against the existence of God? Draw a wordless list of reasons theists may give for why they believe that God exists and draw a wordless list of reasons atheists may give for why they believe that God doesn’t exist.
- Can you extend this by evaluating both lists? Choose the 3 points you find to be the most persuasive and the 3 points you find to be the least persuasive. Write a paragraph explaining your decision.

