



Department	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	
Key Stage	KEY STAGE 4	
Course Level	GCSE	
Exam Board	AQA	

Unit Title	Why This Is Important and Why Is It Taught at This Point?
Christian Practices	<p>This is the first practices unit of work students' study during their GCSE Religious Studies course. Students should be aware that Christianity is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today and that the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity. As students have learnt about Christianity before, some of the content is familiar to them from Key Stage 3 and therefore is an accessible religion to study for their first practices unit of work. As students have already studied the beliefs and teachings of Christianity earlier in the course, they will be prepared to consider how these beliefs are put into practice.</p> <p>The unit enables students to study the practices of Christianity specified below and their basis in Christian sources of wisdom and authority. Students will study the influence of the practices studied on individuals, communities and societies. Common and divergent views within Christianity in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed are included throughout; students will be able to refer to a range of different Christian perspectives in their answers including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.</p>

Dates Delivered	Unit Title	End Points	Substantive Knowledge What will they learn about in this topic?	Disciplinary Knowledge What subject concepts will be developed through this topic?	Assessment Method	Key Course Guides & Reading
Year 10 (September to December)	Christian Practices	Different forms of worship and their significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, including the use of the Bible ➤ Private worship 	Making judgements Linking concepts Providing evidence that backs up concepts Significance	Students will have a mid-unit assessment (this will be as a way of identifying any gaps in knowledge or issues in exam technique) and an end of unit assessment. On-going assessment of learning is a key	AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide by Marianne Fleming, Nagapriya & Peter Smith Mr Finlayson's channel on YouTube - https://www.yo
		Prayer	The significance of prayer, the Lord's Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer	Making judgements Linking concepts Providing evidence that backs up concepts Significance		
		The role and meaning of the sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meaning of sacrament ➤ The sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers' baptism; different beliefs about infant baptism 	Making judgements Linking concepts Providing evidence that backs up concepts Significance		

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist and its significance for Christians, including different ways in which it is celebrated and different interpretations of its meaning 	Explain how belief impacts practice	<p>feature of all units of work in RS at TPS</p> <p>This unit of work will also be assessed as part of the Paper 1 mock exams, which focuses on religious beliefs in both Christianity and Buddhism.</p>	<p>utube.com/@MrFinlayson</p> <p>Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide by CGP Books</p> <p>TrueTube (search Christianity) - https://www.truetube.co.uk/</p>
	The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona ➤ The celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today 	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Linking concepts</p> <p>Providing evidence that backs up concepts</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>Explain how belief impacts practice</p>			
	The role of the church in the local and worldwide community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors ➤ The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth. ➤ The importance of the worldwide Church including: working for reconciliation, how Christian churches respond to persecution and the work of CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund 	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Linking concepts</p> <p>Providing evidence that backs up concepts</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>Explain how belief impacts practice</p>			


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Buddhist Practices	<p>Students should be aware that Buddhism is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today, something that is reinforced through this unit of work. The unit enables students to study the practices of Buddhism specified below and their basis in Buddhist sources of wisdom and authority. Students will study the influence of the practices studied on individuals, communities and societies. Common and divergent views within Buddhism in the way practices are understood and expressed are included throughout; students will be able to refer to a range of different Buddhist perspectives in their answers including Theravada, Mahayana, Zen and Pure Land.</p> <p>As students have already studied the beliefs and teachings of Buddhism earlier in the course, they will be prepared to consider how these beliefs are put into practice. Students are also able to use their learning from the Christian Practices unit of work as a reference point to help them approach the Buddhist Practices unit of work, as although it has some more complex concepts students may not have an understanding of previously, they have already encountered a unit of work showing them the impact of beliefs on the actions of a believer.</p>

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Year 10 (December to April)	Buddhist Practices	The nature, use and importance of Buddhist places of worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Temples ➤ Shrines ➤ Monasteries (viharas) ➤ Halls for meditation or learning (gompas) ➤ Key features including Buddha Rupa, artefacts and offerings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making judgements Linking concepts Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice 	Students will have a mid-unit assessment (this will be as a way of identifying any gaps in knowledge or issues in exam technique) and an end of unit assessment.	AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide by Marianne Fleming, Nagapriya & Peter Smith
		Puja, the significance and role of puja/devotional ritual in the home and in the temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chanting, both as a devotional practice and as an aid to mental concentration ➤ Mantra recitation ➤ Use of malas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significance Explain how belief impacts practice 		

		<p>Meditation, the different aims, significance and methods of meditation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Samatha (concentration and tranquillity) including mindfulness of breathing ➤ Vipassana (insight) including zazen ➤ The visualisation of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas 	<p>Making judgements Linking concepts Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>	<p>On-going assessment of learning is a key feature of all units of work in RS at TPS</p>	<p>Mr Finlayson's channel on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/@MrFinlayson</p>
		<p>The practice and significance of different ceremonies and rituals associated with death and mourning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The cycle of samsara ➤ Nirvana ➤ Sky burials ➤ Theravada funerals – merit transfer ➤ Pure Land funerals 	<p>Making judgements Linking concepts Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>	<p>This unit of work will also be assessed as part of the Paper 1 mock exams, which focuses on religious beliefs in both Christianity and Buddhism.</p>	<p>Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide by CGP Books</p> <p>TrueTube (search Buddhism) - https://www.truetube.co.uk/</p> <p>The daily life of a Buddhist - https://vimeo.com/308084265</p>
		<p>Festivals and retreats and their importance to Buddhists in Great Britain today</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wesak - the most important of all the Buddhist festivals; it honours the Buddha's enlightenment ➤ Parinirvana Day - a Mahayana Buddhist festival that marks the death of the Buddha; Buddhists celebrate the death of the Buddha, because they believe that having attained Enlightenment he achieved freedom from suffering 	<p>Making judgements Linking concepts Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>		
		<p>Ethical teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kamma (karma) and rebirth ➤ Compassion (karuna) ➤ Loving kindness (metta) 	<p>Making judgements Linking concepts Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>		
		<p>The five moral precepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do not take life ➤ Do not take what is not given ➤ Do not misuse the senses ➤ Do not speak falsehoods ➤ Do not take intoxicants that cloud the mind 	<p>Making judgements Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>		
		<p>The six perfections in the Mahayanan tradition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Generosity ➤ Morality ➤ Patience ➤ Energy ➤ Meditation 	<p>Making judgements Similarities and difference Significance Explain how belief impacts practice</p>		

			➤ Wisdom, including how the individual develops these perfections within themselves			
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Theme A: Relationships and families	<p>Through the Themes units of work students will be aware of different religious perspectives about a range of issues within and/or between religious and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism. Students will also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues raised, and their impact and influence on the modern world.</p> <p>Through the Relationships and Families unit of work, students are able to understand the issues surrounding families in the modern world, the use of contraception, appropriate relationships, prejudice and discrimination. This unit of work is studied at the end of Year 10 so that students already have a full understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and practices and have had time to develop the maturity to discuss sensitive issues in a respectful manner.</p>

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Year 10 (April to July)	Theme A: Relationships and families	Sex and sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Human sexuality including heterosexual and homosexual relationships ➤ Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage ➤ Contraception and family planning ➤ Polygamy 	Making judgements Similarities and difference Significance Continuity and change Explain how belief impacts practice	Students will have a mid-unit assessment (this will be as a way of identifying any gaps in knowledge or issues in exam technique) and an end of unit assessment. On-going assessment of learning is a key feature of all units of work in RS at TPS	AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Buddhism Revision Guide by Marianne Fleming, Nagapriya & Peter Smith Mr Finlayson's channel on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/@MrFinlayson
		Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The nature and purpose of marriage ➤ Same-sex marriage and cohabitation 	Making judgements Similarities and difference Significance Continuity and change Explain how belief impacts practice		
		Divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reasons for divorce and remarrying ➤ Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion 	Making judgements Similarities and difference Significance Continuity and change Explain how belief impacts practice		

		The nature of families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The role of parents and children ➤ Extended families and the nuclear family ➤ Same-sex parents 	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Similarities and difference</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>Continuity and change</p> <p>Explain how belief impacts practice</p>	<p>This unit of work will also be assessed as part of the Paper 2 mock exams, which focuses on the different themes they have studied.</p>	<p>Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide by CGP Books</p>
	The purpose of families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Procreation ➤ Stability and the protection of children ➤ Educating children in a faith 	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Similarities and difference</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>Continuity and change</p> <p>Explain how belief impacts practice</p>			
	Issues surrounding gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The roles of men and women ➤ Gender equality ➤ Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples 	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Similarities and difference</p> <p>Significance</p> <p>Continuity and change</p> <p>Explain how belief impacts practice</p>			