

Croxley Danes School : Key Stage 4 Curriculum Map



Subject: Religious Studies GCSE

Religious and Theological Knowledge	Ethical and Moral Reasoning	Philosophical and Existential Enquiry	Critical Analysis and Evaluation	Communication and Exam Skills	Application to Society and Self
Students develop a deep understanding of key beliefs, teachings, and practices within Christianity and Islam. They explore how religious beliefs influence moral decisions, worship, and identity. This includes detailed study of scripture, key figures, and religious responses to contemporary issues.	Through the study of themes such as Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Crime and Punishment, and Human Rights and Social Justice, students examine how religious and secular perspectives address ethical questions. They evaluate different viewpoints on real-world moral dilemmas, using evidence and structured reasoning.	Students explore profound questions about life, death, meaning, and purpose. They analyse religious and non-religious arguments on issues such as the origins of the universe, the existence of God, and the problem of evil, developing their ability to form coherent and balanced judgments.	Students learn to interpret and analyse religious texts and arguments, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and assumptions. They are assessed on their ability to construct well-reasoned responses, including evaluation of differing beliefs and critical use of evidence.	Throughout the course, students practise extended writing, structured argumentation, and source analysis. They develop skills to present clear, concise, and well-supported answers in both short and long-form responses, preparing them thoroughly for written GCSE exams.	Students reflect on how religious and moral issues impact individuals and societies today. They are encouraged to consider how beliefs shape laws, communities, and personal choices, supporting their development as informed, respectful, and responsible global citizens.

Religious Studies at Croxley Danes School – GCSE Vision

At Key Stage 4, Religious Studies offers students a rigorous and engaging exploration of faith, ethics, and philosophy through the AQA Specification A GCSE. This optional course focuses on Christianity and Islam, allowing learners to study these two major world religions in depth. Students engage with four thematic topics: Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, Crime and Punishment, and Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice. The course develops students' critical thinking and evaluative skills by analysing religious beliefs, teachings, and practices alongside ethical and philosophical perspectives. Through essay writing, source evaluation, and discussion, students learn to construct balanced arguments and appreciate a range of viewpoints. Our GCSE Religious Studies programme equips students with the knowledge and skills to understand complex moral and social issues, encouraging them to become reflective, respectful, and informed citizens prepared to navigate and contribute positively to a diverse society

Links to Key Stage 3 Curriculum:

The GCSE Religious Studies course at Croxley Danes builds directly on the thematic, ethical, and philosophical foundation developed through the KS3 REPS curriculum. At Key Stage 3, students gain a broad understanding of world religions, explore moral dilemmas, and begin to critically engage with philosophical and ethical questions. This prepares them well for the demands of the AQA Specification A GCSE, where they study Christianity and Islam in greater depth alongside key moral and social themes.

The progression from KS3 to KS4 includes:

Deepening theological understanding through focused study of beliefs, teachings, and practices in Christianity and Islam

Advancing ethical reasoning by evaluating religious and secular responses to real-world issues such as crime, punishment, relationships, and human rights

Enhancing philosophical enquiry through structured argumentation and analysis of abstract concepts such as the nature of God and the origins of life

Strengthening critical thinking and extended writing skills through evidence-based evaluation and exam-style responses

Applying prior learning to more complex debates and case studies, enabling students to form balanced, justified viewpoints This continuity ensures a smooth transition from KS3 into GCSE Religious Studies and supports students in becoming reflective, informed, and compassionate thinkers capable of engaging with religious and moral issues in both academic and real-world contexts.

Key Stage 4 Year Group: 10			
	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1
Key concept	Crime and Punishment	Crime and Punishment/ Islam Beliefs	Islam Beliefs/ Islam Practices
Content: (Know what...)	1. Introduction to Religious Studies 2-3. To examine what is meant by crime To begin to analyse Christian views on good and evil intention 4. To examine the different types of crime and different categories of crime in Islam and to understand different types of courts. 5. To examine reasons people commit crime how poverty, greed, addiction and mental illness can cause crime and To examine what is meant by an unjust law 6. To examine what is meant by punishment and the aims of punishment and the different perspectives to punishment. 7. To examine what is meant by capital punishment and some of the Christian views. To evaluate whether the death penalty should be restored in Britain. 8. To examine the Islamic views regarding corporal and capital punishment	1 .To examine how Sharia law affects people's lives 2.To examine Christian views regarding capital punishment 3.To analyse the religious teachings in regards to forgiveness 4.To examine the 3 aims of punishment: Retribution, Deterrence and Reformation 5.Introduction to Islam 6. To examine the role of Angels in Islam and analyse how Muslims understand the nature of God 7.To examine what Tawhid means and to analyse Surah 112 8.To examine what is meant by predestination.	1. To examine the Muslim beliefs regarding life after death. 2. To examine the importance of Adam and Ibrahim 3.To examine the importance of the prophet Muhammad and who he was. 4.To examine how the Quran was revealed and why it holds authority to Muslims 5.To examine other Holy books believed to have been revealed by Allah 6.To examine the 5 pillars of Islam and examine the 10 obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam 7.. To analyse the concept of Shahada 8. To examine the significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan and to analyse the origins, duties and benefits of fasting

<p>Skills: (know how...)</p>	<p>Identify and explain key terminology related to crime and punishment. Interpret and apply Christian and Islamic teachings to ethical issues. Analyse causes of crime from both social and religious perspectives. Compare religious views on the aims of punishment (e.g. retribution, deterrence, reformation). Build written responses using evidence and structured reasoning</p>	<p>Compare Islamic and Christian views on corporal and capital punishment using evidence from sacred texts Analyse the social and personal impact of Sharia law in Muslim contexts Evaluate different religious responses to justice and the death penalty Understand and explain religious teachings on forgiveness and mercy Apply religious views to structured exam-style questions with balanced arguments</p>	<p>Examine Muslim beliefs about angels and their role in understanding God's nature. Explain the meaning of Tawhid and analyse key teachings from Surah 112. Investigate Muslim views on predestination and life after death. Explore the significance of Adam and Ibrahim in Islam. Compare and contrast different Muslim perspectives on these beliefs. Develop skills in using evidence from scripture and teachings to support their ideas. Practise communicating their understanding clearly and respectfully.</p>
<p>Key vocabulary (5- 10 words)</p>	<p>Crime, Law, Justice, Good and Evil, Punishment, Aims of Punishment, Deterrence, Retribution, Reformation, Unjust Law, Free Will</p>	<p>Corporal Punishment, Capital Punishment, Sharia Law, Forgiveness, Mercy, Deterrence, Retribution, Reformation, Justice, Redemption, Tawhid, Angels (Mala'ikah), Surah 112 (Al-Ikhlās), Predestination (Al-Qadr)</p>	<p>Akhirah, Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Revelation, Qur'an, Holy Books, Five Pillars of Islam, Ten Obligatory Acts, Sawm</p>
<p>End of Half term assessment</p>	<p>In Autumn 1, students will complete an assessment on Crime and Punishment. The questions will be drawn from past AQA exam papers, which are publicly available on the AQA website. This assessment will help students prepare for their GCSE by practising the types of questions they can expect in their final exams.</p>	<p>In Autumn 2, students will complete an assessment focusing on Islam, key Islamic beliefs including the role of angels, the nature of God, Tawhid, and Surah 112. The assessment will be based on past exam questions from the AQA website and will include 5 questions with varied mark allocations, such as 1, 4, 6, and 12-mark questions, giving students valuable practice ahead of their GCSE exams.</p>	<p>In Spring 1, students will complete an assessment on Islam Practices. The questions, drawn from past exam papers on the AQA website, will focus on key topics such as Salah (prayer), the Shahada (declaration of faith), and important Islamic festivals. This assessment will give students valuable practice with different question types and help deepen their understanding of how these practices shape the lives of Muslims, preparing them for their GCSE exams.</p>
<p>Planned trips / Clubs / links</p>			

	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Key Concept	Islam Practices/ Religion and Life	Religion and Life	Christianity Beliefs
Content: (Know what...)	<p>1.To examine the role and significance of Zakah</p> <p>2. To examine the significance of the Pilgrimage to Makkah</p> <p>3.To examine the importance of Eid ul- Adha</p> <p>4..To examine the meaning of Jihad and the different types and to analyse the meaning and significance of greater and lesser Jihad</p> <p>5.To examine the final 4 of the obligatory Acts and analyse how Shi'a Muslims might practice them in their lives.</p> <p>6.To examine how Eid Ul Fitr is celebrated.</p> <p>7. To examine the origins and rituals of Ashura</p> <p>8. New unit- Religion and Life: To examine the Muslim and Christian beliefs and teaching about the origins of the universe.</p>	<p>1.To examine other theories of how the universe was created.</p> <p>2.To examine what is meant by value of the world.and to understand what is meant by stewardship and dominion in both Christianity and Islam</p> <p>3.To examine how humans use and sometimes abuse the world and to analyse religious teachings regarding this matter.</p> <p>4. To examine the beliefs about the use and abuse of animals in Islam and Christianity.</p> <p>5. To examine the Christian and Muslim views regarding animals for food and treatment of animals.</p> <p>6.To analyse what is meant by animal experimentation. and to examine and evaluate the different religious views regarding animal experimentation.</p> <p>7.To examine the different views about the origin of human life</p> <p>8. To explore Christian and Muslims beliefs about when life begins and understand why these beliefs are important.</p> <p>9. To examine what is meant by euthanasia and begin to look at some of the religious views</p> <p>10. To summarise the different Christian attitudes to euthanasia and to evaluate the different attitudes.</p>	<p>1.To examine Christians beliefs relating to the nature of God</p> <p>2. To examine the problem of evil and suffering and the religious responses</p> <p>3. To analyse what is meant by the trinity.</p> <p>4. To examine Christian beliefs about creation</p> <p>5.To examine the Christian beliefs regarding life and death and to analyse the Christian beliefs regarding heaven and hell</p> <p>6. To examine the beliefs and teachings about Jesus and the Christian belief of Jesus as the son of God</p> <p>7.To examine the story of Jesus's crucifixion To analyse what is meant by ascension and salvation</p> <p>8. To analyse the concept of resurrection and its religious significance</p> <p>9. To evaluate the concept of ascension and it's religious significance and to understand what is meant by the original sin.</p>
Skills: (Know how...)	<p>Explain the role and importance of Zakah and the pilgrimage to Makkah.</p> <p>Describe how Eid ul-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr are celebrated and why they matter.</p> <p>Understand and analyse the different meanings of Jihad, including greater and lesser Jihad.</p> <p>Identify and explain the final four Obligatory Acts in Shi'a Islam and how they are practised.</p> <p>Outline the origins and rituals of Ashura.</p> <p>Use evidence to support their explanations of religious beliefs and practices.</p> <p>Communicate their understanding clearly and thoughtfully.</p>	<p>Explain different religious and scientific theories about the creation of the universe.</p> <p>Understand and compare the concepts of stewardship and dominion in Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>Analyse how humans use and sometimes abuse the environment, supported by religious teachings.</p> <p>Describe Christian and Muslim views on the use and treatment of animals, including for food.</p> <p>Examine the ethical issues around animal experimentation and evaluate religious perspectives on it.</p> <p>Explore beliefs about the origin of human life and when life begins in Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>Define euthanasia and summarise various religious attitudes towards it.</p> <p>Develop skills in explaining, comparing, and evaluating</p>	<p>Explain key Christian beliefs clearly and accurately using appropriate religious language and examples.</p> <p>Analyse complex theological concepts such as the Trinity, salvation, and original sin by breaking them down into their key components.</p> <p>Interpret religious texts and teachings to support explanations and arguments.</p> <p>Evaluate different Christian responses to issues like evil, suffering, and life after death by weighing up strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>Compare differing Christian perspectives on creation, resurrection, and salvation where relevant.</p> <p>Apply religious beliefs to wider philosophical and ethical questions about human nature, purpose, and the afterlife.</p> <p>Justify opinions using evidence from scripture and religious</p>

		different religious viewpoints. Use evidence from religious texts to support their arguments and explanations. Communicate their ideas clearly and thoughtfully in discussion and writing.	tradition. Develop structured arguments that include clear reasoning and evaluation of key beliefs.
Key vocabulary (5- 10 words)	Zakah, Hajj, Eid ul-Adha, Eid ul-Fitr, Jihad, Greater Jihad, Lesser Jihad, Obligatory Acts, Ashura, Sacrifice	Creation, Stewardship, Dominion, Environment, Animal Rights, Animal Experimentation, Sanctity of Life, Euthanasia, Pro-life, Pro-choice	Omnipotent, Omnibenevolent, Trinity, Salvation, Resurrection, Ascension, Original Sin, Heaven, Hell, Crucifixi
End of Half term assessment	In Spring 2, students will be assessed on Islamic Beliefs using past AQA GCSE-style questions covering Tawhid, Holy Books, life after death, angels, and God's attributes. The assessment includes multiple-choice, short answer, and evaluative questions to develop exam skills like using teachings, structuring arguments, and writing balanced evaluations.	In Summer 1, students will sit a full mock exam covering Crime and Punishment, Islamic Beliefs and Practices, and Religion and Life. The GCSE-style paper includes recall, explanation, and evaluation questions to build exam skills, boost confidence, and identify areas for improvement before Year 11	In Summer 2, students will complete a final assessment on Christian Beliefs, covering the Trinity, resurrection, God's justice, salvation, and the Bible's role in creation. The exam includes multiple-choice, short answers, explanations, and evaluations to build skills in using scripture, explaining teachings, and evaluating views in preparation for GCSEs.
Planned trips / Clubs / links	Humanist speaker	Animal Aid Speaker	

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1
Key Concept	Christianity Practices	Religion Human Rights and Social Justice	Relationships and Families
Content: (Know what...)	<p>1.To understand what is meant by worship and its important for Christians and to examine the different types of worship in the Christian Faith</p> <p>2. To examine the meaning, role and significance of sacraments</p> <p>3. To examine what is meant by believers baptism and why it is considered important to the practice of some churches.</p> <p>4. To analyse the holy communion and its importance in various churches</p> <p>5. To analyse the similarities and differences between the Eucharist ceremonies in various churches</p> <p>6. To analyse examples of Christian Pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona</p> <p>7. To examine the meaning of Christmas and Easter and how it is celebrated</p> <p>8. To examine the role of the church in the community.</p> <p>9.To examine the religious views / beliefs on the obligation to support Christians who are being persecuted and to analyse the Christians views regarding persecution.</p>	<p>1.To examine what we mean by rights and social justice and to examine what is meant by rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>2.To examine what religions say about freedom of religion and freedom of religious expression and analyse how the Human Rights Act impacts this.</p> <p>3. To examine what is meant by prejudice and stereotyping and to examine the different types of prejudice and religious views on prejudice.</p> <p>4. To analyse different forms of racism and the religious views</p> <p>5.To examine the religious views regarding prejudice and homosexuality.</p> <p>6. To examine what gender prejudice is and to analyse what religion teaches regarding gender prejudice.</p> <p>7. To examine what wealth means and to analyse Christian attitudes to wealth.</p> <p>8. To examine the causes of poverty and the type of poverty which exists in the UK</p> <p>9. To examine what is meant by people trafficking and to analyse religious attitudes towards helping those in need.</p>	<p>1. To examine different types of relationships and formulate a definition of human sexuality and to understand Muslim and Christian teachings about sexuality.</p> <p>2 To analyse Christian and Islamic opinions on sex before and outside of marriage and British attitudes towards relationships before and outside of marriage.</p> <p>3. To examine different types of contraception and religious views regarding the use of contraception.</p> <p>4. To examine the reasons why people get married and to analyse the Muslim and Christian reasons to marriage.</p> <p>5.To examine different reasons for divorce in Britain today and the Christian teachings about divorce and remarriage.</p> <p>6.To analyse the nature and purpose of families in the 21st century.</p> <p>7.To examine what is meant by gender prejudice and gender discrimination and to analyse religious attitudes about gender prejudice and gender discrimination</p> <p>9.o examine Christian and Muslim teachings regarding the role of men and women</p> <p>8.To consider contemporary British attitudes towards heterosexual and homosexual relationships</p>
Skills: (Know how...)	<p>Understand and explain different forms of Christian worship.</p> <p>Explore the meaning and importance of sacraments.</p> <p>Explain believers' baptism and its significance.</p> <p>Compare Holy Communion practices across churches.</p> <p>Learn about Christian pilgrimages like Lourdes and Iona.</p> <p>Describe the meaning and celebration of Christmas and Easter.</p>	<p>Understand rights, responsibilities, and social justice. Explain freedom of religion and religious expression.</p> <p>Understand how laws like the Human Rights Act affect religious freedoms.</p> <p>Recognise prejudice, stereotyping, and related religious teachings.</p> <p>Explore racism and religious responses to discrimination.</p> <p>Discuss religious views on prejudice about homosexuality and gender.</p> <p>Analyse Christian views on wealth, poverty, and</p>	<p>Define key concepts like human sexuality, marriage, and family roles using religious and secular language.</p> <p>Explain Christian and Muslim teachings on relationships, marriage, divorce, and contraception.</p> <p>Analyse religious and British cultural attitudes toward sex before marriage, divorce, and family structures.</p> <p>Compare Christian and Islamic views on gender roles, sexuality, and family life.</p> <p>Evaluate religious and contemporary views on gender prejudice and discrimination.</p> <p>Interpret religious teachings and scripture to support</p>

	<p>Understand the Church's role in the community. Explain Christian views on persecution and supporting others.</p> <p>Use religious terms accurately and support answers with evidence.</p> <p>Build clear, structured explanations and comparisons.</p>	<p>their causes.</p> <p>Understand human trafficking and religious teachings on helping others.</p> <p>Use religious terms and teachings to support explanations.</p> <p>Develop balanced evaluations of religious perspectives on social justice.</p>	<p>explanations.</p> <p>Develop balanced arguments considering multiple viewpoints on complex ethical issues.</p> <p>Apply religious beliefs to modern social issues and debates.</p>
Key vocabulary (5- 10 words)	Worship, Sacrament, Believers' Baptism, Holy Communion / Eucharist, Pilgrimage, Lourdes, Iona, Christmas, Easter, Persecution.	Rights, Social Justice, Responsibilities, Freedom of Religion, Prejudice, Stereotyping, Racism, Homosexuality, Gender Prejudice, Human Trafficking.	Human Sexuality, Contraception, Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, Gender Prejudice, Gender Discrimination, Heterosexual, Homosexual, Family.
End of Half term assessment	<p>Students will complete an assessment based on a past AQA exam paper covering key Christian practices such as the Eucharist, the Church's role in the community, and Christian street pastors. It includes multiple-choice, short answer, and evaluative questions to develop skills in explaining beliefs, using religious teachings as evidence, and forming balanced arguments.</p>	<p>Students will complete a short assessment on Social Justice based on past AQA questions. Additionally, they will sit a 1 hour 45 minute mock exam covering Islamic and Christian Beliefs and Practices. The mock is taken from the AQA GCSE specification, and students will be guided in their preparation.</p>	<p>Students will complete an assessment based on past AQA exam questions covering key topics such as marriage, family, contraception, and divorce. The assessment includes multiple-choice, short answer, explanation, and evaluation questions. Students will practice explaining religious beliefs, using scripture as evidence, and forming balanced arguments on complex issues related to relationships and family life.</p>
Planned trips / Clubs / links			

	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Key Concept	Revision		
Content: (Know what...)	We will be revising the entire GCSE Religious Studies course, covering all key topics studied so far. This includes Crime and Punishment, Islamic Beliefs and Practices, Religion and Life, Christian Beliefs and Practices, Human Rights and Social Justice, and Relationships and Families. The revision will help reinforce knowledge, improve exam technique, and prepare students for their final assessments.	Course ended	Course ended
Skills: (Know how...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall and apply key knowledge across all major topics. • Explain religious beliefs and practices clearly and accurately. • Use religious teachings and scriptures to support their answers. • Compare and evaluate different viewpoints on ethical and religious issues. • Build well-structured written responses, including extended evaluations. • Develop confidence in answering a full range of GCSE exam questions. • Strengthen exam technique and time management skills. 		