



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The **Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form Religious Studies** curriculum aims to give pupils a broad understanding and depth of religious knowledge. At GCSE level pupils study the AQA course. The course spans the 3 years of year 9,10 and 11 with two exams at the end. The GCSE covers a range contemporary ethical themes, explores some philosophical issues and looks at Christianity and Hinduism in Depth. This ensures you have a diverse range of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious, ethical and philosophical issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Year 10	Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1		Religions: Christian Beliefs Theme C: Revelation and the Existence of God	Knowledge: In the first term of year 10, pupils will look in depth at key beliefs like the trinity, the nature of God, judgement, Jesus, the afterlife and salvation. This is followed by some philosophical enquiry into arguments that try to prove the existence of God like the cosmological (first cause) and teleological (design) arguments, as well as the problem of evil, miracles and revelation. Skills: There are lots of opportunity for evaluation. This develops to consider which strengths and weaknesses	Link to exam board: The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - Religious beliefs and practices: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies - BBC Bitesize Alien Abduction: Christianity - TrueTube The Problem of Evil - TrueTube Dawkins on Disaster - TrueTube



		are most convincing. Decoding symbolism continues to be developed, as does explaining concepts in detail.	Proving God Exists - TrueTube
Assessments		<p>Pupils complete a variety of 4 and 6 mark answers. Pupils are encouraged to 'PE on the page' (key point with an explanation). There is also a focus on including a relevant quote in the 6 mark answers and giving a source: e.g. Bible. Pupils are still encouraged to colour code their answers to help them to clearly see the exam technique.</p> <p>Autumn 1: Two x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in.</p> <p>Autumn 2: Two x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and keys words will be provided to aid pupils with this.</p>	
2	Hindu Practices	<p>Knowledge:</p> <p>In this topic, the pupils will make links back to the Hindu beliefs that they learnt in year 9, while looking at how these influence things that Hindus will do as part of their religion. Pupils will explore different types of Hindu worship, pilgrimage, holy buildings, charities and even environmental work. There is an emphasis on the symbolism of these practices.</p> <p>Skills:</p>	<p>Places of worship - Practices in Hinduism - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Practices in Hinduism - Explore Hinduism: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Hinduism: The Puja Tray - TrueTube</p> <p>Hinduism: The Arti Ceremony - TrueTube</p> <p>Holy Crib: The Mandir - TrueTube</p> <p>Diwali - TrueTube</p>



		<p>Evaluation continues to be built on and pupils are encouraged to compare and contrast viewpoints while making links between beliefs and practices. There are lots of opportunities for using technical language, and to gain appreciation of another faith.</p>	
Assessments		<p>Pupils continue to complete a variety of 4 and 6 mark answers. Pupils are encouraged to 'PE on the page' (key point with an explanation). There is also a focus on including a relevant quote in the 6 mark answers and giving a source: e.g. Bible. Pupils are still encouraged to colour code their answers to help them to clearly see the exam technique. There will be lots of model answers in lessons for pupils to look at to help them to further develop their essay skills.</p> <p>Spring 1: One x12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in.</p> <p>Spring 2: One x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and key words will be provided to aid pupils with this.</p>	
3	Religions: Christian Practices	<p>Knowledge: In this topic pupils will explore Christian worship, pilgrimage, baptism and Holy Communion, as well as looking at more modern aspects of the faith such as food banks and street pastors.</p> <p>Skills: Evaluation and analysis continue to be key. Pupils are also encouraged to apply beliefs to the practices and</p>	<p>Practices in Christianity - Religious beliefs and practices: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Understanding Denominations: Christianity - TrueTube</p> <p>Pilgrimage Moments: Vespers - TrueTube</p>



		explain these links in detail. Decoding symbolism is encouraged through images.	Holy Crib: The Anglican Church - TrueTube Christianity: Holy Communion - TrueTube
Assessment		<p>Pupils will complete a variety of 4 and 6 mark answers. Pupils are still encouraged to 'PE on the page' (key point with an explanation). There is also a focus on including a relevant quote in the 6 mark answers and giving a source: e.g. Bible. Pupils can still colour code their answers to help them to clearly see the exam technique.</p> <p>Spring 1: One x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in.</p> <p>Spring 2: One x 12 mark essays. These will be planned in lessons and the pupils given the chance to reflect on and add to their work before they hand it in. A range of planning methods and keys words will be provided to aid pupils with this.</p>	