



OVERVIEW

In accordance with the new KS3 United Learning Curriculum for RS it is compulsory that Islam and the Philosophy of Religion are taught in Y8. Studying Islam ensures that students have completed a faith study in the Abrahamic Faiths. This helps students understand some of the core beliefs of many people in the world. Studying Philosophy of Religion as well as Atheism exposes students to an environment where they will gain knowledge and understanding from a range of different perspectives and beliefs surrounding the question of the existence of God. Understanding a range of opinions and perspectives on such questions will lead to an increase in tolerance, acceptance and respect for the local and wider community. This is in line with the British values and the right to practice whichever religion we choose without discrimination.

Atheism

Topics covered within the Y8 Atheism module:

Where did Atheism come from?
Plato's Cave
Challenging the Bible
The Enlightenment
Evolution
Without God, Everything is Permitted

Assessment:

The 'Big Write' question that students will be asked is: "There's no point believing in God anymore." Evaluate this statement considering different points of view.

Philosophy of Religion

Topics covered within the Y8 Philosophy of Religion module:

Who is God?
Theism, Atheism and Agnosticism
The Design Argument and Criticisms
Criticisms of the Design Argument
The Cosmological Argument
Criticisms of the Cosmological Argument
The Problem of Evil
Theodicies
Religious Experience and Criticisms

Assessment:

The 'Big Write' question that students will be asked is: 'The God of Classical Theism must exist.' Evaluate this statement considering different points of view.

Islam

Topics covered within the Y8 Islam module:

Pre-Islamic Arabia
Prophet Muhammad and the Qur'an
Prophet Muhammad - The Hijrah and Conquest of Mecca
The Final Sermon
Sunni Shia Split
Islamic Caliphates

Assessment:

The 'Big Write' question that students will be asked is: 'Hajj is the most significant aspect of being a Muslim.' Evaluate this statement considering different points of view.

Useful resources for supporting your child at home:

- The Five Pillars
- Y8 RS Knowledge Organiser
- Seneca Learning
- BBC Bitesize / BBC Teach Videos - KS3 Religious Studies
- Khan Academy - KS3 Religious Studies
- Enrichment days