

Subject: Religious Studies		Year Group: Year 9
Term 1 Key Focus/Topic(s) Historical Jesus & Church Origins: Evaluating historical sources, the Shroud of Turin, and the conversion of Saul. Studying the missionary journeys, the ethics of Constantine's power, and the development of modern denominations.	Term 2 Key Focus/Topic(s) <i>Continuation of Year 9 Program.</i> Focus on the "Jesus of History" vs the "Christ of Faith" and the ethical implications of Church history.	Term 3 Key Focus/Topic(s) Islamic Foundations & Practices: Introduction to the life and leadership of Prophet Muhammad. Exploration of the Five Pillars of Islam (Shahadah, Salah, Zakah, Sawm, Hajj) and the role of the Mosque in the community
Term 1 Assessment Opportunities: Evaluating historical sources and artwork. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Saul's conversion and missionary journeys. • Reflection on commitment and church music. 	Term 2 Assessment Opportunities: Historical source evaluation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of denominations 	Term 3 Assessment Opportunities: Explaining the obligations of the Five Pillars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of Just War Theory (GCSE Taster). • Formal Option Exam (Revision and GCSE-style assessment).
Term 4 Key Focus/Topic(s): Deep dive into Islamic ethics, 'The Breadwinner' and modern Muslim identity in the UK.	Term 5 Key Focus/Topic(s) Introduction to the life of the Buddha, the Eightfold Path, and Buddhist worship, including meditation and the concepts of rebirth/moral development	Term 6 Key Focus/Topic(s) Final units on Buddhist philosophy through <i>Groundhog Day</i> and the lives of the Shaolin Monks.
Term 4 Assessment Opportunities: Evaluative response to cultural and gender themes in <i>The Breadwinner</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunni and Shia split 	Term 5 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffering and Enlightenment • Reflection on the Eightfold Path and meditation. 	Term 6 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Sights analysis (Buddha). • Final evaluative responses on moral development and "meaning-making".

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Rationale:

The Year 9 curriculum utilizes a **phenomenological approach** to bridge Key Stage 3 and GCSE study . By exploring the seven dimensions of religion—with an increased focus on the **Material, Doctrinal, and Social dimensions**—students engage with complex themes like historical evidence, Just War Theory, and global human rights. We support student **Wellbeing** by exploring personal change, emotional regulation through meditation, and the development of self-awareness. Our **Gatsby-aligned** content highlights careers in forensics, diplomacy, international relations, and mental health.

Evaluation:

This **live document** is evaluated by the students' ability to transition from narrative understanding to critical, evidence-based evaluation. Success is measured through GCSE-style assessments, the ability to debate complex ethical criteria (Jihad/Just War), and the reflection on how religious values translate into modern professional skills