

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 1

Islam



What will students study?

Students will begin by studying the origins of Islam in Mekkah and how the revelation from Allah to the prophet encouraged a change from the polytheistic practices to strict monotheism. They will look at how the impact of the message changed both religious, legal and social systems of the times. Following this students will investigate the formation of the Qur'an, the main Islamic holy text. They will be introduced to a variety of verses from it to highlight how it encompasses instruction/advice for all parts of life. Additionally, they will examine how it was formed links to a belief in its infallibility and authority within Islam.

Muslim beliefs on the nature of Allah will also be studied such as his omnipotence, mercy and just nature. They will be tasked with assessing the importance of these qualities with reference to the role of Allah. Following this they will briefly look at the five pillars of Islam as an example of Muslims faith in action.

What will the homework be?

For homework students will be expected to complete a project page each week to contribute to the ongoing project on the major world religions. Firstly students will need to complete a fact file on the origins and formation of Islam. Secondly a page on the key messages of the Qur'an. Thirdly a written piece to compare and contrast the different qualities of Allah and finally, a page to explain the role and impact of the pillars of Islam.

How can you help?

Students will need access to a clear and quiet space to complete the homework tasks. If students are struggling additional information is available on BBC Bitesize under the Islam section.

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 2: Sikhism



What will students study?

The study will start by looking at the formation of Sikhism which was founded by Guru Nanak in 1469. They will explore how his teachings were passed down to the nine Sikh Gurus who followed him. Following this students will explore the beliefs about the Sikh scripture the Guru Granth Sahib. Including the belief that it is a living Guru and how this impacts the treatment of it. They will be asked to explain the key beliefs of equality and Sewa and how this is central to the Sikh faith.

Finally students will study the practice of the five k's. For each of students will need to explain what it is and how they remind Sikhs about an element of their religion. For example the Kangha which is a special comb which represents cleanliness.

What will the homework be?

For homework students will be expected to complete a project page each week to contribute to the ongoing project on the major world religions. Firstly students will need to complete a fact file on the origins and formation of Sikhism. Secondly a page on the key beliefs about the Guru Granth Sahib. Thirdly a written piece to analyse the importance of equality and Sewa, and finally, a page to explain the role and impact of the Five K's.

How can you help?

Students will need access to a clear and quiet space to complete the homework tasks. If students are struggling additional information is available on BBC Bitesize under the Sikh section.

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 3

Humanism



What will students study?

Students will study the foundations of humanism as a nontheist view point which maintains the importance of the value of humans independent of belief in a God or Gods. Students will explore the importance of reason and rational thought as a basis for making moral and ethical decisions. That people need to do what is right as it is the right thing to do rather than because they need to do it for the promise of an afterlife.

After this they will study how the humanist base beliefs impact a humanists practices. These include a focus on altruistic morality that all people should have unselfish concern for others and always act for the best interests of those around the.

What will the homework be?

There project on the major world religions is now complete but the work on humanism will be included in it as an alternative belief system/ outlook. Firstly students will need to complete a fact file on the origins and formation of Humanism. Secondly a page on the origins of morality and authority for humanists. Thirdly a written piece to analyse the importance of the value of human beings, and finally, a page to explain the importance of altruistic morality.

How can you help?

Students will need access to a clear and quiet space to complete the homework tasks. If students are struggling additional information is available on BBC Bitesize under the humanist section.

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 4

Shared Religious messages



What will students study?

Students will study how different religions instruct people to treat other people on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, which is known among them as the golden rule. That these principles encourage care and respect for all in order to be a true believer. Then students will study the religious attitudes to the value of human life focusing on the recognition that all beliefs systems regard human life as valuable and important.

The final shared belief they will study is religious attitudes to law. Students will be made aware of the importance of religious rules and laws that believers must follow at all times. However, be introduced to the parts of religious texts that support always following the governing authorities unless they prevent your religious practice or are inherently unjust. A case study of Nelson Mandela will be used as an example of a religious believer who broke the law.

What will the homework be?

Students will complete one poster display task on one shared religious messages. They will be able to choose between golden rule, value of human life or the attitudes towards the law. Additionally they will complete an extended essay to assess the compatibility of different religions living within a secular country.

How can you help?

Students will need access to a clear and quiet space to complete the homework tasks. If students are struggling additional information is available on BBC Bitesize under the world religions section.

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 5

What is worship?



What will students study?

Students will begin with a brief study of the reasons behind worship and the impact it has on believers and the relationship they have with their God/Gods. Following this they will complete an in depth study where they will compare the different methods of worship including worshipping as a group, independently, formally and informally. They will look at examples of what this looks like across the world religions.

Subsequently, students will look at the role and purpose of places of worship in supporting believers to learn and practice their faith. They will complete a case study of a Gurdwara in lessons which has many features which are linked to beliefs. For example the entrances on all sides on the building which represents the belief that all people no matter where they come from should be welcomed to worship.

What will the homework be?

The homework will be used to consolidate understanding of the role and nature of worship. Students will be tasked with designing a multifunctional space which facilitates worship or meditation for a variety of groups. Additionally, they will complete a write up on how the Gurdwara demonstrates religious belief.

How can you help?

Ensure your child has a clear and quiet space to work in. If you can please take them to visit local places of worship to support their study in class.

Y8 Religious Studies Half Term 6

Worship case studies



What will students study?

Students will investigate the role of religious leaders in places of worship. They will do this generally at first including looking at how they support life both personally and spiritually. They will then move onto the case study of a Rabbi and how in Judaism religious leaders also play a key role in educating believers in both the law and Hebrew.

They will then study three examples of pilgrimages believers will go on. These include Iona, Lourdes and Hajj. They will explore the reasons behind each of the pilgrimages and assess the impact they have on believers.

What will the homework be?

Students will be expected to produce a job advert of a religious leader to show they understand the role. They will also need to complete a day by day program on one of the pilgrimages studied and show how the practices carried out support religious belief.

How can you help?

If you have ever been on a pilgrimage or heard about them please share these stories with your children. There are also a number of films/ documentaries of pilgrimages including 'The Way' and 'Hajj, the greatest trip on earth.' If you have time please watch one with your child and discuss the message/ role of the pilgrimage.