



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Year: 10	Subject: Religious Studies
AQA GCSE - Theme A - Religion, Relationships and Families- Christianity	
Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues. They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions: - Homosexuality - Marriage - Divorce - Contraception - Having children - The importance of the family - The role of parents - Cohabitation	
AQA GCSE - Theme E - Religion, Crime and Punishment- Christianity	

Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions:

- Corporal punishment.
- Death penalty.
- Forgiveness.
- Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.
- Reasons for crime, including: poverty and upbringing, mental illness and addiction, greed and hate, opposition to an unjust law.
- Views about people who break the law for these reasons.
- Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.
- The aims of punishment, including:
 - Retribution, deterrence and reformation.
- The treatment of criminals, including:
 - Prison, corporal punishment and community service.
- Forgiveness.
- The death penalty.
- Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life.

AQA GCSE - Theme F - Religion, Social Justice and Human Rights - Christianity

Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions:

Status of women in religion.

The uses of wealth.

Freedom of religious expression.

Prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and treatment within religion of women and homosexuals.

Issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.

Human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Social justice.

Racial prejudice and discrimination.

Ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.

Wealth, including:

The right attitude to wealth, the uses of wealth and the responsibilities of wealth, including the duty to tackle poverty and its causes.

Exploitation of the poor including issues relating to:

Fair pay, excessive interest on loans and people-trafficking.

The responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.

Charity, including issues related to giving money to the poor.

AQA GCSE - Islamic Beliefs and Practices

Students should be aware that Islam is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today and that the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity. This knowledge may be applied throughout the assessment of the specified content.

Students should study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam specified below and their basis in Islamic sources of wisdom and authority. They should be able to refer to scripture and other writings where appropriate. Some texts are prescribed for study in the content set out below and questions may be set on them. Students may refer to any relevant text in their answers and AQA will publish a list of appropriate texts as part of the supporting material for this specification. These additional texts will not be required for study, alternatives may be used, and questions will not be set on them.

Students should study the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices studied on individuals, communities and societies.

Common and divergent views within Islam in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed should be included throughout. Students may refer to a range of different Muslim perspectives in their answers, including those from Sunni and Shi'a Islam. They must study the specific differences identified below.

Key Beliefs

- The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam and five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam, including key similarities and differences.
- Tawhid (the Oneness of God), Qur'an Surah 112.
- The nature of God: omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice/Adalat in Shi'a Islam, including different ideas about God's relationship with the world: immanence and transcendence.
- Angels, their nature and role, including Jibril and Mika'il.
- Predestination and human freedom and its relationship to the Day of Judgement.
- Akhirah (life after death), human responsibility and accountability, resurrection, heaven and hell.

Authority

- Risalah (Prophethood) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.
- The holy books:
 - Qur'an: revelation and authority
 - the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, the Scrolls of Abraham and their authority.
- The imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance.

AQA GCSE - Islamic Practices

Worship

- Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam (students should study the Five Pillars and jihad in both Sunni and Shi'a Islam and the additional duties of Shi'a Islam).
- Shahadah: declaration of faith and its place in Muslim practice.
- Salah and its significance: how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations; salah in the home and mosque and elsewhere; Friday prayer: Jummah; key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer.

Duties and festivals

- Sawm: the role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including origins, duties, benefits of fasting, the exceptions and their reasons, and the Night of Power, Qur'an 96:1-5.
- Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including origins, how and why it is given, benefits of receipt, Khums in Shi'a Islam.
- Hajj: the role and significance of the pilgrimage to Makkah including origins, how hajj is performed, the actions pilgrims perform at sites including the Ka'aba at Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah and their significance.
- Jihad: different understandings of jihad: the meaning and significance of greater and lesser jihad; origins, influence and conditions for the declaration of lesser jihad.
- Festivals and commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today, including the origins and meanings of Id-ul-Adha, Id-ul-Fitr, Ashura.

Information

Blue Coat follows the Walsall Agreed Syllabus plus the Understanding Christianity guide supplied by RE TODAY.

Blue Coat Church of England School follows AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: We study both Islam and Christianity in depth at GCSE, these two areas are a strength for our pupils and reflect the diversity of our school community. The two religions complement each other and share lots of similar themes.