

## BALANCED RE

## THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 4.00-5.30PM

JENNIFER JENKINS
RE FACILITATOR- COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE



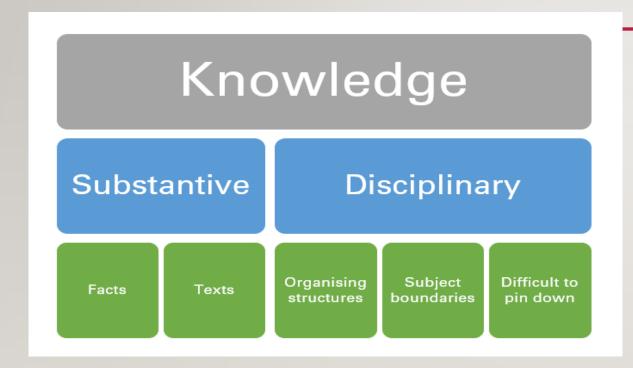
WHAT DO WE
MEAN BY
BALANCED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY RE?



## BALANCED RE



#### SUBSTANTIVE AND DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE



"Distinctive subject areas have been constructed by humans to understand the world as we receive it."-Richard Kueh in *Reforming RE* by Mark Chater (2020) There are two types of knowledge in an RE Curriculum:

**Substantive knowledge-** the information and facts about religion that are taught and the sacred texts and artefacts pupils encounter. The 'stuff' of the curriculum.

**Disciplinary knowledge-** the subject disciplines and a tradition of learning which involves looking at the religious content through various lenses. These are academic disciplines each with their own tradition, methods and tools for study. The 'how' of study in RE.

#### **OFSTED REPORT ON RE**

#### THREE TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

Although educators make different claims about the purpose of RE, it is nonetheless vital for subject leaders, curriculum designers and teachers to be aware of different types of knowledge in RE

First, 'substantive' knowledge: knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions

Second, 'ways of knowing': pupils learn 'how to know' about religion and non-religion

Third, 'personal knowledge': pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religious and non-religious traditions they study

What are the implications of this statement in your context?

What questions do you have?



https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-reviewseries-religious-education/research-review-series-religiouseducation

- Substantive Knowledge
- Ways of Knowing (Disciplinary Knowledge)
- Personal Knowledge

## **BALANCED RE**

These are the three main disciplines in Religious Education

https://balancedre.org.uk/

Theology is about believing. It looks at where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, how they are applied differently in different contexts and how they relate to each other.

Philosophy is about thinking. It is about finding out how and whether things make sense. It deals with questions of morality and ethics. It takes seriously the nature of reality, knowledge and existence.

- Human and Social Sciences are about living. It explores the diverse ways in which people practise their beliefs. It engages with the impact of beliefs on individuals, communities and societies.
- Present RE to pupils as **polymethodic**: embracing a multidisciplinary approach including theology (believing), philosophy (thinking) and human & social sciences (living).
- You should try to ensure a balance of these 3 disciplines in your RE curriculum.
- Prioritise RE in the timetable so that it is regarded as a robust, academic subject and not something fluffy. Good RE can nurture skills in pupils useful for other subjects and life beyond education.



The strands of the Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus

#### WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE?



#### What do we mean by a discipline?

A discipline is widely understood to have:

- An intellectual history/tradition which is manifested institutionally through higher education
- A body of knowledge founded on core concepts and theories
- A particular object of research/investigation, although this might be shared across disciplines
- Specific terminology and language to define and explain concepts
- Research methods and modes of enquiry according to its specific requirements
- A specific stance towards the nature of reality (i.e. views the world through a particular lens)
- Particular grounds upon which valid truth claims are made/ways of validating knowledge (epistemology)
- A group of intellectual followers (academics) who conduct new research in that discipline and bring changes to it over time

Taken from Norfolk Agreed Syllabus 2019

"We are the inheritors, neither of an enquiry about ourselves and the world, nor an accumulating body of information, but of a conversation, begun in the primeval forests and extended and made more articulate in the course of centuries. It is a conversation which goes on both in public and within each of ourselves."- M Oakeshott (1962)

WHAT IS
DISCIPLINARY
KNOWLEDGE IN
RE?



# DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE: WHAT IS IT?

Engaging with disciplinary knowledge and utilising the skills associated with academic disciplines provides pupils with the toolkit they need to understand the complexity of worldviews."- Georgiou & Wright, Reforming RE (2020)

## Theology (Believing)

- How key beliefs are presented in texts
- Origins of key beliefs/concepts
- How have key beliefs/concepts have been interpreted throughout history
- How is the same concept can be treated differently across different worldviews
- Authors of key sacred texts
- Historical-social contexts and dates of sacred texts
- The authority of the sacred text for both believers and non-believers
- The relationship between authority, power and sacred texts in different traditions
- The implications sacred texts and the beliefs held therein have for the way in which people see and think about the world

## Philosophy (Thinking)

- How we know what we know
- The ways in which humans try to understand the world around them
- The ways in which humans try to work out what is real or true (Epistemology and metaphysics)
- Whether belief make (rational) sense
- Evidence to support a belief position and how convincing these are for humans (Logic)
- How people decide what is right or wrong and why this matters (Morals & ethics)
- How beliefs in right or wrong connect to what people say and do
- What happens when people have different interpretations of good and evil and these conflict
- How this impacts on human interactions with others? (Ethics)

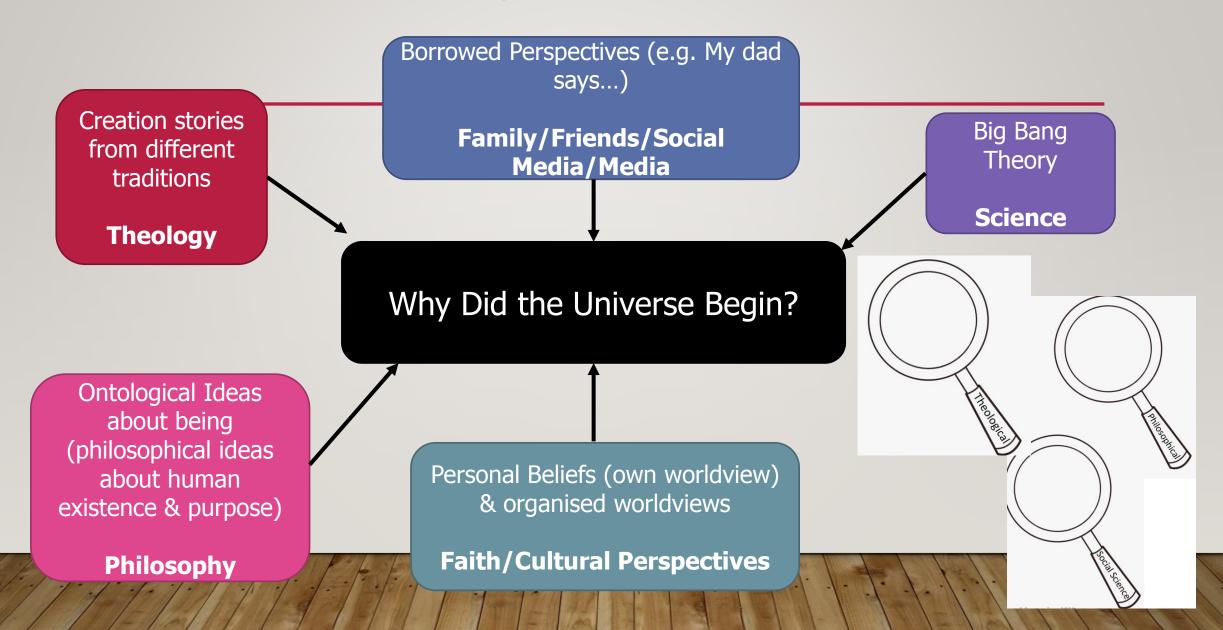
## Human & Social Sciences (Living)

- What we mean by the term 'religion'
- What we mean by the term 'worldview'
- Whether all people mean the same things using these terms
- How people within the same religion/worldview practise their beliefs differently (diversity in traditions)
- The impact of geography or culture on the way beliefs are practised
- The historical origins of these differences & how they have changed over time
- How belonging impacts on individual identity
- The influence of family and community on lived experience
- The benefits and challenges of community membership
- The relationship between religious and other forms of identity

Lenses to look at religion and worldviews

**Religious Literacy** 

## **BALANCED RE AND BIG QUESTIONS**



## FOR THE PUPILS: UPPER KS2/KS3

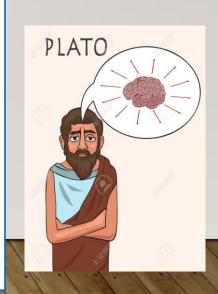
#### **WE ARE THEOLOGIANS**

- We analyse sacred texts and make links with practices and beliefs
- We look for evidence to back up our thinking, using sacred text and beliefs.
- We make judgements based on our reading
- We make interpretations and identify our hermeneutical (interpretive) lenses
- We ask questions about what we read and discuss its meaning
- We consider authorship and authority and the context in which sacred texts were written
- We reflect on what sacred texts mean to us personally and what they mean to others



#### WE ARE PHILOSOPHERS

- We explore different methods of knowing and different methods of reasoning
- We use the ideas and thoughts of others to generate discussion and formulate our own opinions
- We justify our opinions and ideas with evidence and examples
- We challenge the ideas and opinions of others, known to us and not known
- We ask innovative questions of our own and attempt to answer the questions of others
- We try to be persuasive in our spoken language and in our writing
- We think critically using reason and evidence
- We think about why we are here and issues of right and wrong, good and bad



### WE ARE HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

- We question assumptions and religion
- We analyse how things change in society
- We consider the reasons for human behaviour and practices
- We consider what behaviour and practices tell us about belief and ways of seeing the world
- We study diversity and lived experiences of religion using interviews, case studies and observations
- We analyse and try to understand the worldviews of others, both personally and institutionally, alongside our own
- We encounter real people from different religious traditions and those of no faith
- We think about issues of belonging and identity and the interactions between these ideas



## FOR THE PUPILS: KSI/LOWER KS2

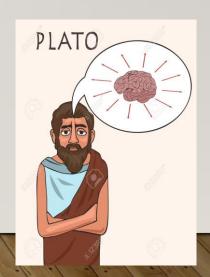
#### WE ARE THEOLOGIANS

- We look closely at sacred texts and think about how they are important for understanding what people believe and how they live
- We all read the same text but we might understand it differently depending on what we know and what we have experienced
- We ask questions about what we read and discuss its meaning
- We think about who wrote sacred texts, when they wrote them and why they wrote them
- We think about what sacred texts mean to us and what they mean to other people



#### WE ARE PHILOSOPHERS

- We think about how people know things
- We talk about what other people think
- We try to give reasons for our own thoughts and ideas
- We ask questions about what our classmates think so they can better explain it to us
- We try to convince each other that what we think is good and makes sense
- We think about life and why we exist, including what is right and wrong or good and bad



#### WE ARE HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

- We think about the world in which we live and why and how things change
- We think about why humans behave in different ways
- We think about what actions and behaviour tell us about what people believe and how they see the world (their personal worldview)
- We talk to people and watch people in action to understand diversity
- We try to understand how we see the world and how others see the world, as individuals and as religious communities
- We encounter real people from different religious traditions and those of no faith
- We think about why belonging and identity are important to people and why they show this in different ways



## UNPICKING THE DISCIPLINES FURTHER

### THEOLOGY

- Theology considers the origins of key beliefs within religious traditions.
- It considers the sources of beliefs, such as sacred texts, tradition, reason and experience.
- It explores the reliability and authority of **sources** and acknowledges that these may be debated amongst theologians.
- Theology looks at the ways in which beliefs have developed over time and helps with understanding how key beliefs, concepts and ideas have changed through history, or have emerged at different points in response to societal events.
- Theology takes place within, between and beyond communities of faith.
- Theology makes connections between different beliefs, concepts and ideas both within and between religions and belief systems/worldviews.
- It looks at the ways in which beliefs and ideas shape the worldviews of believers and their relationships with others (those of shared faith and not)

- Theology involves investigating key texts and traditions within different religions and belief systems.
- Through hermeneutics (the art or skill of interpretation), theology explores the ways in which sacred texts have been used as authoritative for believers and the ways in which they have been challenged,
  - interpreted and disregarded over time.
- Theology makes use of reasoning. It considers the use of reason in assessing the key ideas of a religion or belief system (therefore making links with philosophy in places) and it explores the significance of **experience** in the claims made by religious and non-religious people.
- Theology is a discipline that grapples with questions that have been raised by religions and beliefs over the centuries, making them relevant to all. All can be theologians.

Name:

Date:

Highlight the key parts of the text.

Annotate in the space below with your own thoughts, ideas and questions

Why do you worry without cause?

Whom do you fear without reason?

Who can kill you?

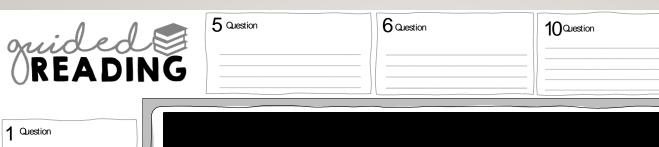
The soul is neither born, nor does it die.

Whatever happened,
happened for the good;
whatever is happening,
is happening for the good;
whatever will happen,
will also happen for the
good only.

Key Questions to answer from and about the text:

What was surprising to you?

What was confusing to you?



1 Question	8.5 0 8 0	Question
2 Question	ىلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَىٰ	
		Question
3 Question	From the <mark>earth</mark> We you, and into it We <mark>will</mark>	
	you, and from it We will you another time	uestion
	The Quran 20:55	

7 Question

8 Question

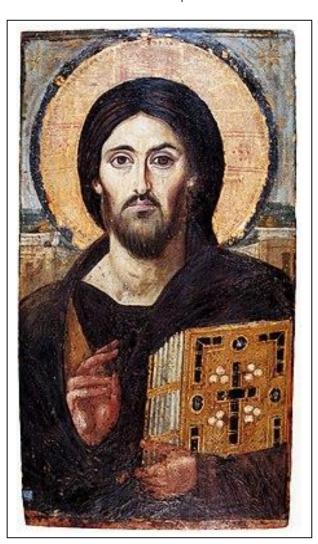
#### Name:

Use a magnifying glass or viewing frame to look closely at the image

What religious symbolism can you see within this image? Which concept is represented?

Is any part of the image confusing to you?

#### Date:



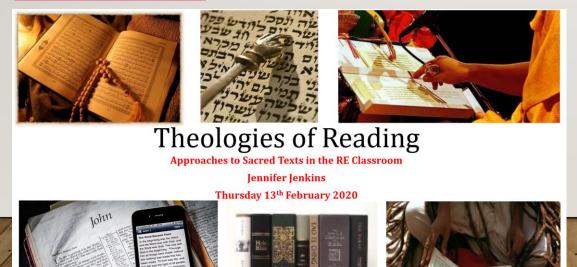
How does the image connect with what you know from sacred stories/texts?

If you were planning your own image to represent this concept, what would you include?

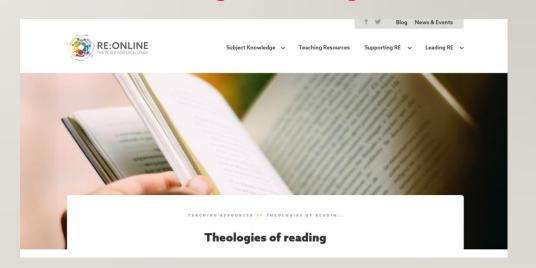
# THEOLOGY RESOURCES FROM COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE SACRE

Our Theologies of Reading CPD is available in section 8 of the Educational Resources section on the Warwickshire SACRE pages:

https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-resources/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre/3



My Theology of Reading resources are also available here on the RE Online website: <a href="https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/theologies-of-reading/">https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/theologies-of-reading/</a>



## **HERMENEUTICS**





### Hermeneutics for RE

**Knowledge as Interpretation** 

Jennifer Jenkins, RE Facilitator for Coventry & Warwickshire

## Hermeneutics = the art or skill of interpretation of text



## Theologies of reading



Jennifer Jenkins is a teacher and the RE and Spirituality Officer at Coventry Diocesan Board of Education, She has ten ways to help your pupils read and think like theologians

of interpretation; of making meaning as



suggest particular emphasis for the reader



ideas of a text holding not just one 'right' answer, nor being the object



of biblical languages, or being able to he intentions of the text and allows for a closer reading.

analysis of what is contained in all, and what differs, and the reasons that might sit behind that. Pupils might particularly Artistic

interpretation

the text and the worl rough the filter of their own life and educational experiences, resulting in a unique understanding of the text as spanning many centuries. Students may look at multiple images acting as

enses to pupils. Despite all students engaging with the same passage of socred

in the classroom, they must be aware o text present in all of the student versions.

experiences and belief systems, prior experiences of sacred texts and exposu

This engages pupils with can be annotated and questioned, with students building on the comments of their peers. A double-entry journal, with

ained from the text, as well as what known as puncta extraordinaria, found within Hebrew manuscripts. Such m are found above the word traditionally translated as "kiss" in the reconciliation account of Jacob and Esau. However, Personal lenses one rabbi felt the presence of the data altered the meaning of the word, and he interpreted it as 'bite', so that instead of the

> Introduce this concept to students in th classroom by presenting each pupil with a strip of paper with this printed on it: PL\_S\_LT M\_L\_V\_ Set up the scenario that this was found on a povement. What could its intended meaning be? Students may fill in

by side in the Midrosh.

Asual Commentary on Scripture - theucs.org

enquiry within the RE classroom as well as engaging with philosophical ideas.



for sitent reading. It is considered by Muslim: himself (PBUH) liked his friends to read the Qur'an back to him. Arabic letters ho symbolic as well as literal meaning and or sounds the words make, alonoside the content, work together to contain the meaning. Its musical and aesthetic quality draws meaning into the heart, and

icates that the wisdom con

recitation

penned by rabbis, form the Midrash meaning 'textual study', taken from the Hebrew word 'dorosh' ('to seek'). The underlying tenet is that limiting meaning memorisation and understanding form a unstness and that God's speech, through its nature, produces multiple interpretations much like the turning of a gem. These interpretations must remain true to the In Qur'an 1.3-4 the Arabic words fo ompossion' and 'merciful' run togethe uring recitation, illustrating how Allah theological and ethical norms of the belief community (so, on interpretation that judgement. In the final sura, the presence i

and emphasis, and all, these lead the reciter (Qur'an 12.68) - emphasising the drama and emotion of the mament and evolvin other! Both of these interpretations sit sid-

> recite the Qur'an for your students, these principles can be seen in action. Otherwise, repeat this activity, playing with different

Settle on a group recitation and compar

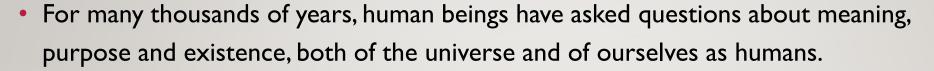


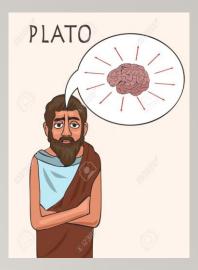
standing traditions

way of reading the Bible developed in the early centuries of the Church and is read slowly, re-read and pondered body through resting, the heart thn uhispering Letters' (the Arabic Letter for 's'). to what has been read. This can be adapte for the classroom so that students first Finally, they reflect on what impact it ha

> illustrated well through the experience of St Augustine, who on believing he heard the voice of a child saying Pick up and read, pick up and read" did retrieve his cop plaqued his faith of late. He had read Paul' letters countless times before but this occasion, reading it in his garden, led to a different reading experience, demonstrating the situatedness of such a reading and the idea of readers as 'makers'. You can explor this nation with pupils by asking them to night, etc.) and journaling/annotating their

### **PHILOSOPHY**



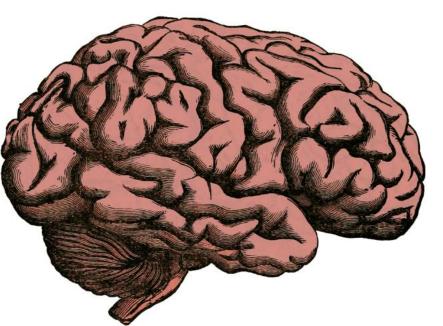


- Around the 6th century BCE these questions began to be systematised in religious philosophies in different areas of the world. This is the starting point for the discipline of philosophy.
- As human beings, we have the capacity to reason as well as wonder about life, the universe, ourselves. It is this process of **reasoning** that lies at the heart of philosophy.
- Philosophy involves exploring answers to difficult questions. It embraces the process of how we try
  to answer them.
- Philosophy uses dialogue, discussion and debate to refine the way in which we think about the world and our place in it.

# Epistemology

the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. Epistemology is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from

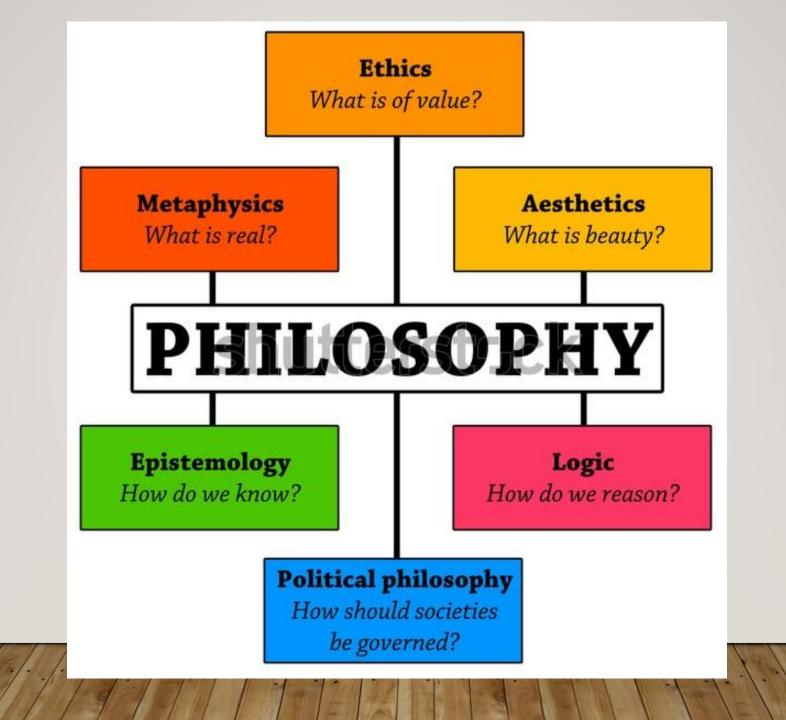
opinion.





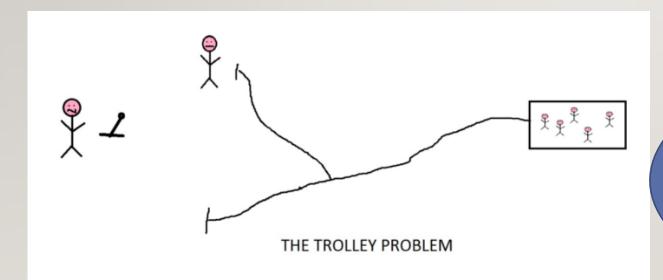


Metaphysics	Logic	Moral Philosophy
<ul> <li>Considering the nature of the world around us</li> <li>Using our senses and reason to think about the world and to ask questions about it</li> <li>Asking epistemological questions about how we know</li> <li>Examining how people make sense of the world they live in</li> <li>Exploring definitions of things, e.g. what we might mean by happiness, hope, truth or knowledge</li> <li>Considering what the object of study might tell us about the nature of existence and reality.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Investigating the process of reasoning that takes place when we ask questions about the world and our place in it</li> <li>Considering the ways in which statements are put together to form conclusions</li> <li>Evaluating whether we are asking reasonable questions of the object of study, as well as thinking about whether the object of study is providing a well-constructed and coherent response to questions of existence, reality, truth, morality, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Considering the nature of good and evil</li> <li>Asking questions such as, 'How do we decide what is good? What is the nature of goodness? and, 'What is a 'good' life?</li> <li>Exploring what the object of study is telling believers about the nature of goodness, how to make decisions and how to live a 'good' life.</li> </ul>



There is a runaway train or trolley car that is hurtling towards a fork in the tracks. In one direction there is a person tied down who will certainly be killed if the trolley travels on that track. To make matters worse in the other direction there are, inexplicably, 5 people tied to the track! There is a person, looking rather glum at the junction box — they must choose which track to send the trolley. Herein lies the dilemma; which way should the lever be pulled?





'What if the I was a doctor and she could save a million lives?'

'What if the 5 were all murderous criminals?'

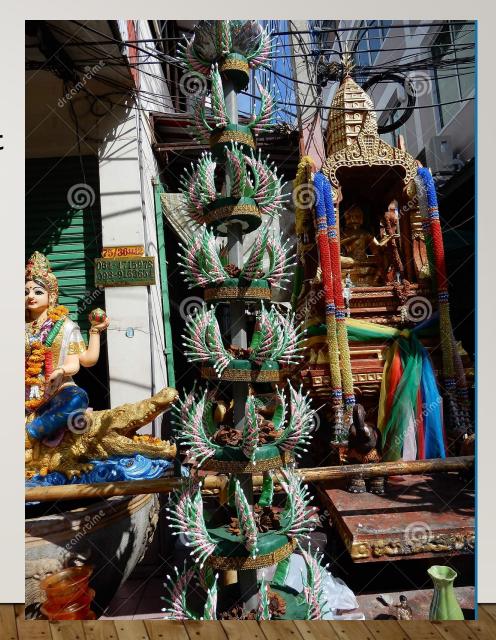
'What if the 5 were very old?'

What if the I was David

Attenborough?'

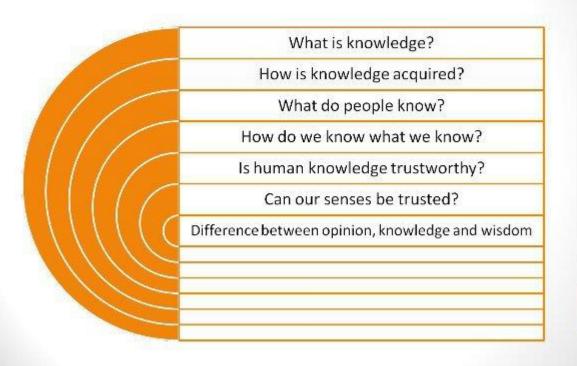
# Philosophical Enquiry Around Religious Artefacts:

- Do religious artefacts contain 'power'? What might that 'power' be and how can it be accessed?
- Should only religious people use religious artefacts?
- How should we treat things which some people think are holy/special?
- A religious friend of yours as suggested that it is not enough to learn about religion, but that you should 'try it' by using this object as a focus for meditation. What do you think of that suggestion?



### **Aspects of Philosophy**

## **Epistemological Questions**



### **Ethical Theories**

#### Relativism

- no absolute or universal right and wrong
- moral standards as a function of societal believes
- undermines criticism both within and between societies
- negates the possibility of (ethical) progress

#### Universalism

what is right/wrong applies to all

#### Consequentialism

· considers the outcome of behaviour

#### Deontologism

· considers the behaviour itself

## Branches of Philosophy: Metaphysics

- Metaphysics: What is the nature of reality, what is real? What exists?
- Reality is permanent and unchanging (absolute) or dynamic and evolving (relative)
- Reality...a priori, apart from human experience or a posteriori, only existing after and because we experience it
- Idealism versus Realism
- · Basic human nature: good, bad, neutral

- Study of reality
- Beyond the physical'
- Ontological arguments
- Cosmological arguments

Metaphysical study of the nature of being and existence

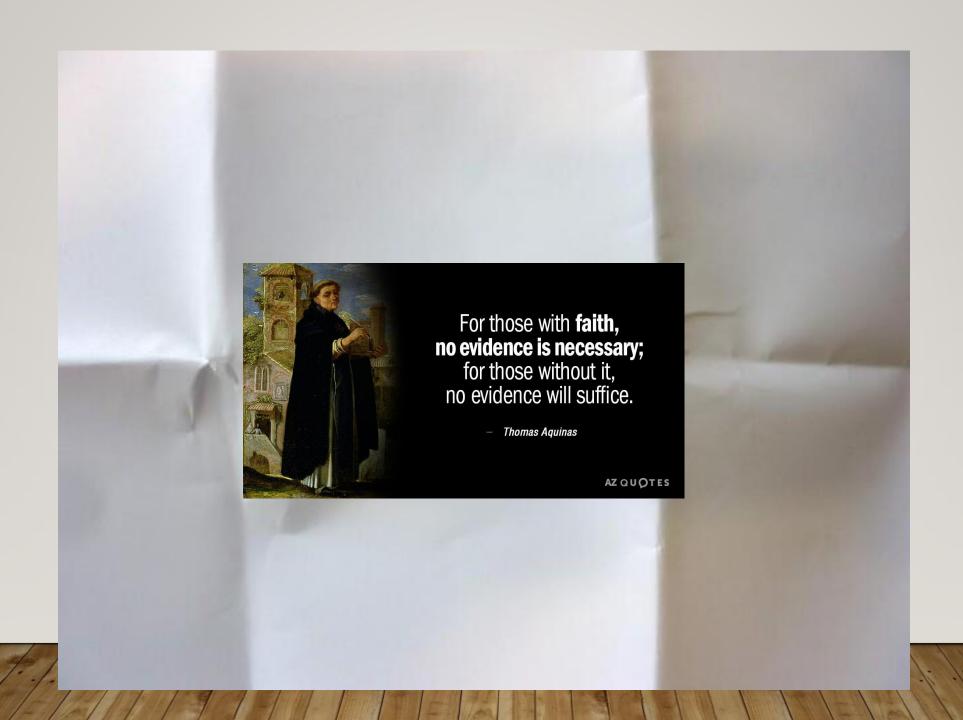
#### Ontological arguments

- Attempt to establish the existence of God a priori (not based on any facts known by experience)
- It follows from the very idea of a theistic god that such a being must exist
- A theistic god by definition has all perfections
- Existence is a perfection
- Thus, a theistic god exists

## Metaphysical study of the origin and nature of the universe

#### Cosmological arguments

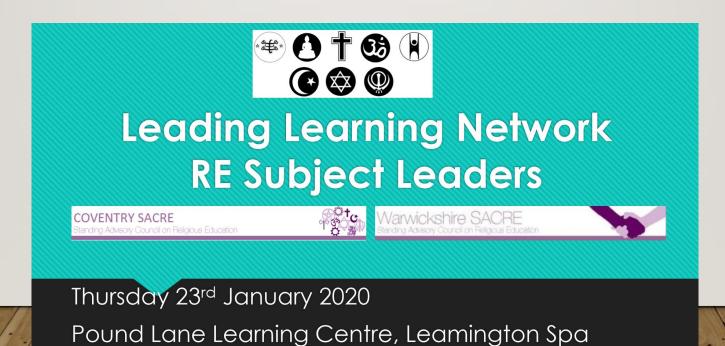
- Attempt to show that the very existence of the cosmos—any cosmos--must be explained by saying that it was created by a supernatural being
- It doesn't matter what the cosmos is like; it must have a divine origin





# PHILOSOPHY RESOURCES FROM COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE SACRE:

Our Philosophy & Ethics CPD is available in section 8 of the Educational Resources section on the Warwickshire SACRE pages: <a href="https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-resources/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre/3">https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-sacre/3</a>



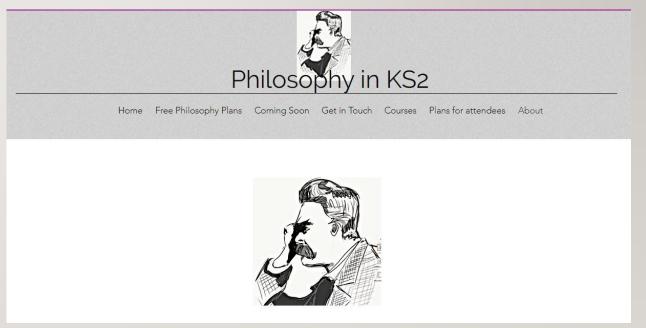
#### PHILOSOPHY RESOURCES

How I... teach Phillipa Foot's Trolley problem to 9-year olds - RE:ONLINE (reonline.org.uk)

Football, ice cream, trolleys and God: philosophical RE for 7— Is » REtoday Online Library (retodaylibrary.org.uk)



Philosophy Cat | A-Level Philosophy, Theology & Ethics



About | Philosophy in KS2

## **HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

- Human/social sciences explore the human dimension of religions and beliefs.
- It enquires into the lived and diverse reality of religions and beliefs in the world today.
- Religions and beliefs are not static but living and diverse, complex, sometimes chaotic, sometimes
  creative and always human (Jackson, Barratt and Everington, 1994; Dinham and Shaw, 2015) ways of
  expressing belief.
- This discipline helps teachers and pupils be mindful of not just what a religion or belief system says it is (the organised or institutional worldview as it is presented by an authoritative voice), but also the multiple ways in which it is lived; the diversity of lived experience as personal worldviews are lived out in their alignment with organised/institutional worldviews).
- This is the difference between studying 'Christianity' and 'Christians' or 'Islam' and 'Muslims'. Encounter with real people is essential.

## **HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



- Supports better understanding of the ways in which religions and beliefs influence people's understanding of power, gender, compassion, and so on.
- Multi-vocal in nature.
- Considers both the strengths and weaknesses of religions and beliefs in their lived reality and therefore supports pupils' ability to hold the balanced and informed conversations and to think critically.
- Explores the nature of religion itself and the **diverse** ways in which people understand the term 'religion'.

## **HUMANAND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



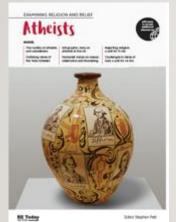
Communal identities	Social structures
<ul> <li>Various human/social scientific disciplines (e.g. politics, anthropology and sociology) consider questions of communal identity</li> <li>Considering how the object of study contributes to or impacts communal identities within and beyond religions and belief systems.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Various human/social scientific disciplines (e.g. politics, economics and sociology)     consider questions about human society</li> <li>Considering how the object of study contributes to or impacts upon human patterns of life.</li> </ul>

## HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES \* Pew Research Center

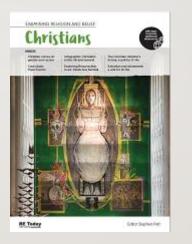


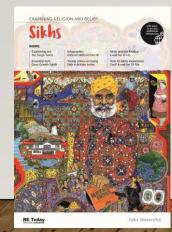
 The 'Examining RE' series from RE today include some very interesting infographics with data for each tradition:









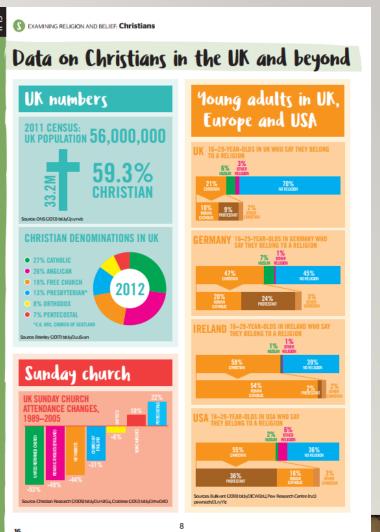


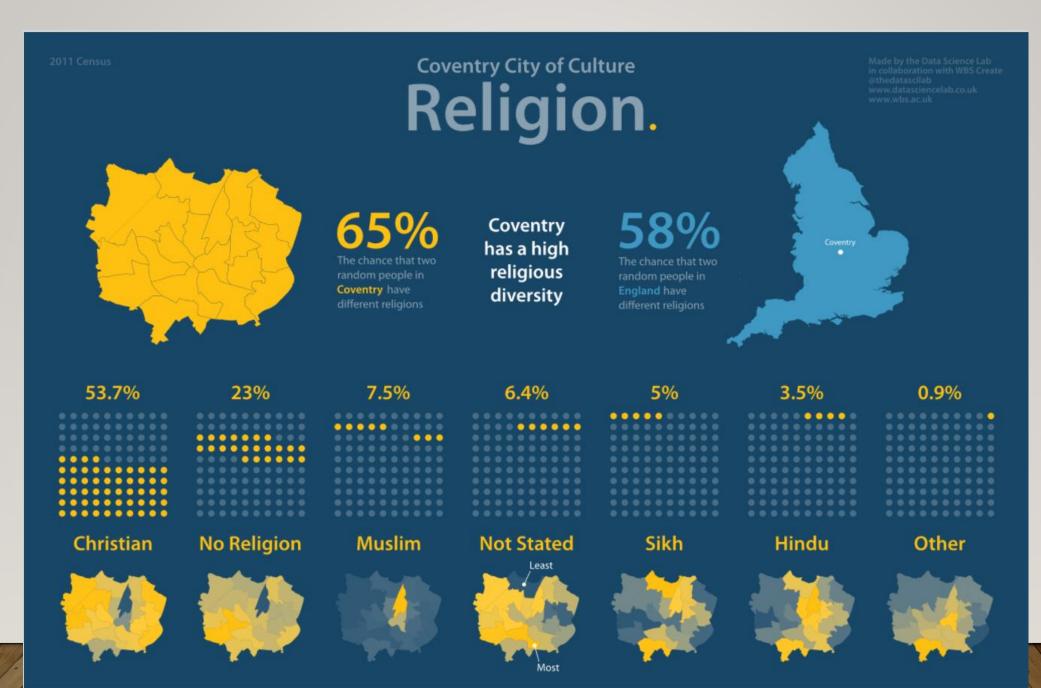


Top Tip:

Use these to get pupils making predictions, comparisons and identify changes over time in the way religions are practised

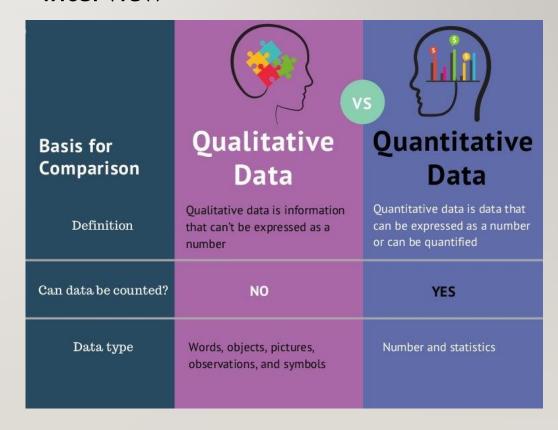
https://www.pewresearch.org/







- Ethnography: 'Portrait of a People'
- Requires encounter with real people and lived experience
- Visits/visitors- observation and interview





Nuneaton Masjid @nu... · 28/03/2020 ····

A call was put out by @GEHNHSnews who were running low on plastic cups for the staff and struggling to secure more

The Nuneaton Muslim Community responded and delivered 6000 cups, plates, bowls, knives, forks & spoons.

#HelpFightCorona #NHSThankYou #NHSheroes @NuneatonNews















Nuneaton Masjid @nun... · 23/01/2020 ····

8/13 weeks for the Nuneaton Winter Night Shelter are almost complete. In partnership with local churches we're supporting friends from the homeless community every Wednesday night from Dec to Feb. The cold weather hasn't even arrived yet!

@Doorway2 @P3Charity @NBBCouncil











17 2

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# MUSLIMS, NOT JUST ISLAM

- Encounter is important in RE.
- Pupils need to encounter living faith traditions and get the impression that these belief systems are fluid and dynamic instead of static. They can do that through encountering believers and not just beliefs.
- Do this through visits to places of worship, faith visitors in school, books written in the I<sup>st</sup> person, video clips such as the My Life, My Religion series from the BBC or those found on True Tube.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05pc1c9

https://www.truetube.co.uk/list?conten t%20types=films&page= |

Use pupils and parents of other faith as a resource for RE



hip suggested by ools/teachers who rs are SACRE responsible for aging risk.

#### COVENTRY SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Re

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WHAT IS
DISCIPLINARY
METHODOLOGY
CAN WE USE IN
THE RE
CLASSROOM?



# THEOLOGY: CONCEPTS, METHODS & DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

Concepts	Methods	Disciplinary Knowledge
<ul> <li>Key concepts such as:     'good', 'community',     'power', 'covenant'</li> <li>Key beliefs such as:     'creation', 'incarnation'     and 'heaven'</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Hermeneutics</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Exegesis</li> <li>Textual Criticism</li> <li>Studying Biblical Languages</li> <li>Art criticism</li> <li>Art history</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Origins of belief</li> <li>Sacred texts: origins, authorship and authority</li> </ul>

Top Tip: Are you using text critically and for analysis and interpretation and not simply as an artefact or as 'proof' extracts at secondary level?

# PHILOSOPHY: CONCEPTS, METHODS & DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

Concepts	Methods	Disciplinary Knowledge	
<ul> <li>Wisdom</li> <li>How knowledge is accumulated</li> <li>Reason and evidence</li> <li>Scrutiny</li> <li>Different models of knowing</li> <li>Different ways of reasoning</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reasoning</li> <li>Epistemological questioning</li> <li>Thought experiments</li> <li>Philosophy of religion</li> <li>Metaphysics</li> <li>Ethical theory</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The history of thinking about what is real or true (Epistemology and metaphysics)</li> <li>Sense, evidence and rational positioning (Logic)</li> <li>Right and wrong and the impact of this (Ethics)</li> </ul>	

Top Tip: Are you offering pupils the opportunity to engage in different types of philosophical debate within RE lessons?

# HUMAN & SOCIAL SCIENCES: CONCEPTS, METHODS & DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

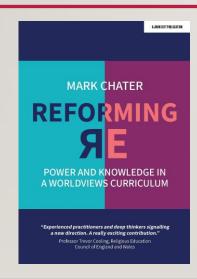
Concepts	Methods	Disciplinary Knowledge
<ul> <li>Lived reality of religion and worldviews</li> <li>Diversity of practice</li> <li>Authority and authenticity</li> <li>Stereotypes and generalisations</li> <li>Influence of religion on culture and society and vice versa</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Quantitative and qualitative data e.g. census data</li> <li>Ethnographic studies</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Classification</li> <li>Interviews</li> <li>Case studies</li> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Encounter with adherents</li> <li>Drawing on other bodies of knowledge, such as: history, anthropology, sociology, political science and law</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Terms: 'religion', 'worldview'</li> <li>Variance of practice in response to beliefs</li> <li>Impact of geography and culture on belief and how this can be observed and measured</li> <li>Belonging and identity and how this is demonstrated</li> </ul>

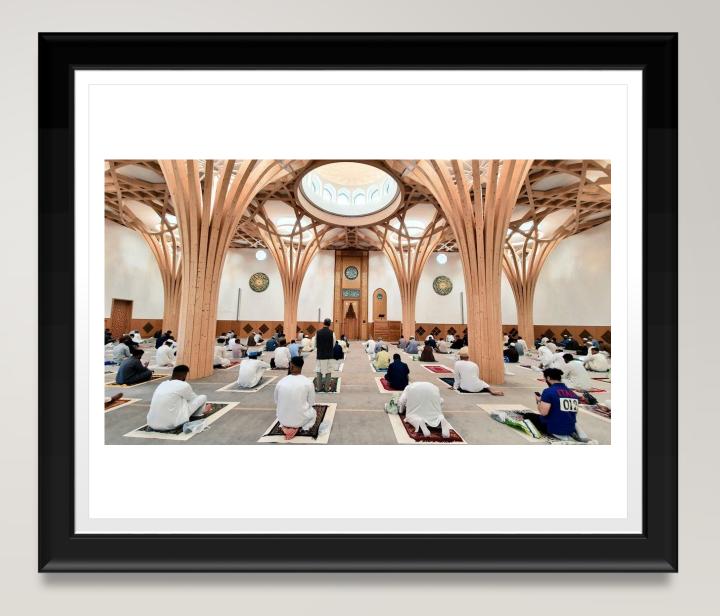
Top Tip: Have you looked at the local census data for your area with regards to religious adherence? Do you know how many places of worship there are and where they are located locally? Can you see the impact of religious groups in your community? Create a local religion impact map with pupils

# A RANGE OF METHODOLOGYTHAT TRANSLATES INTO THE RE CLASSROOM

Theology Methodology/Tools	Philosophy Methodology/Tools	Human & Social Sciences Methodology/Tools
<ul> <li>Hermeneutics</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Exegesis</li> <li>Textual Criticism</li> <li>Studying Biblical Languages</li> <li>Art criticism</li> <li>Art history</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reasoning</li> <li>Epistemological questioning</li> <li>Thought experiments</li> <li>Philosophy of religion</li> <li>Metaphysics</li> <li>Ethical theory</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Quantitative and qualitative data e.g. census data</li> <li>Ethnographic studies</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Classification</li> <li>Interviews</li> <li>Case studies</li> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Encounter with adherents</li> <li>Drawing on other bodies of knowledge, such as: history, anthropology, sociology, political science and law</li> </ul>

# WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?





Disclaimer: Not every topic studied in RE can be viewed and approached through all three disciplinary lenses but it is sometimes appropriate to do so

#### Theology: What it means to believe

Analysing a place of worship might tell us something about what that particula faith community believe (theology) and the way this impacts on their actio (human & social science) and their thinking (philosophy).

#### Key questions to ask from a theological lens:

- How does this sacred space reflect the beliefs that are expressed in the stories of texts/teachings?
- Why do different versions of the same sacred space/place of worship look similar or different?
- How do certain beliefs or concepts shape the way in which the sacred space is used by believers?



#### Theology: What it means to believe

Analysing a mosque/masjid through a theological lens will lead pupils to ask questions about the Islamic belief in the oneness of God and the concept of Allah creating all things in submission to his will.

#### Possible learning tasks might be:

- Investigate why appropriate preparation for prayer is so important to Muslimswhat is it about the nature of Allah that makes it so important?
- Explore the significance of facing east (from UK towards Makkah) when praying and why the location of the Kaaba is so important for Muslims, relating this to the oneness of God.

#### **Theology**: What it means to believe

 Asking questions about the timing and frequency of prayer in the mosque/masjid and how prayer relates to the concept of submission to Allah. Using images to show different Muslims in prayer around the UK can show harmonious submission across many contexts.







#### **Human and Social Sciences:** Thinking about and thinking through lived experience

Analysing a place of worship through the lens of human and social sciences might tell us something of the **lived experience** of a **faith community** in this country.

Key questions to ask from a human and social sciences lens:

- How is this **sacred space** used? Do all members of the faith community use it in the same way? How might different people use this space differently and why?
- How does this sacred space contribute to a sense of **community and belonging**? How might this extend beyond just the faith community?
- In what way does the **local culture/society** impact on the ways in which this sacred space looks and is used?

The 'What Happens in a...' pack from RE Today is a good resource for starting these questions

#### **Human and Social Sciences:** Thinking about and thinking through lived experience

#### Possible learning tasks might be:

- Considering the geographical locations of mosques in the local area and investigating why they are located there.
- Analysing the history of mosque-building in the UK and the way this relates to the changing and developing nature of Muslim communities.
- Considering the range of ways in which a mosque/masjid is used by the **Muslim community and by the wider community** e.g. the annual #VisitMyMosque event or community Iftars during Ramadan.
- Asking questions about the **architectural and decorative design** of the mosque/masjid and how different ones can look quite different. This could lead into the impact of different branches of Islam and different cultural expressions of the Muslim faith.
- Explore the ways UK mosques/masjids look and how their uses may differ from those around the world, making connections with the concept of **ummah** and impact on the **wider society** or culture where the

mosque is located.

# WHERE ARE THE DISCIPLINES IN THE CWAS?



## DISCIPLINES IN THE CWAS: THEOLOGY (BELIEVING)

	FS (Discovering)	KS1 (Exploring)	Lower KS2	(Connecting)	Upper KS2 (Connecting)	KS3 (Applying/interpreting)
urces; questions and truth)		<ul><li>1.1 Who is a Christian and what do they believe?</li><li>1.2 Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?</li><li>1.3 Who is Jewish and what do they believe?</li></ul>	L2.1 What do different people believe about God?		U2.1 Why do some people believe God exists?	3.1 Do we need to prove God's existence?
<b>Believing</b> (Religious beliefs, teachings, source about meaning, purpose and	F1 Which stories are special and why?	1.4 What can we learn from sacred books?	L2.2 Why is the Bible so important for Christians today?			3.2 Does living biblically mean obeying the whole Bible?
	F2 Which people are special and why?		L2.3 Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?		U2.2 What would Jesus do? Can we live by the values of Jesus in the twenty-first century?	3.3 What is so radical about Jesus?
		<ul><li>Hermeneutics</li><li>Interpretation</li></ul>			U2.3 What do religions say to	3.4 Is death the end? Does it matter?
(Religic		<ul><li>Exegesis</li><li>Textual Criticism</li></ul>			us when life gets hard?	3.5 Why is there suffering? Are there any good solutions?
		<ul> <li>Studying Biblical Languages</li> </ul>				

• Art criticism

Art history

## DISCIPLINES IN THE CWAS: EXPRESSING (PHILOSOPHY)

1g tual fo tions a ersity)		Vhat places are ial and why?	1.5 What makes some places sacred?	L2.4 Why do people pray?	U2.4 If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?	3.6 Should religious buildings be sold to feed the starving?	
	nd diversit		Vhat times are ial and why?	1.6 How and why do we celebrate special and sacred times?	L2.5 Why are festivals important to religious communities?	U2.5 Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?	3.7 How can people express the spiritual through the arts?
	ıtity a		_		L2.6 Why do some people think		
	ē	•	Reasoning		that life is a journey and what		
	اد	•	Epistemologic	cal questioning	significant experiences mark this?		
		•	Thought expe	eriments	Cins		
		Philosophy of religion					

Metaphysics

Ethical theory

# DISCIPLINES IN THE CWAS: LIVING (HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

	FS (Discovering)	KS1 (Exploring)	Lower KS2 (Connecting)	Upper KS2 (Connecting)	KS3 (Applying/interpreting)	
ays of living; commitments)	F5. Being special: where do we belong?	1.7 What does it mean to belong to a faith community?	L2.7 What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today? L2.8 What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?	U2.6 What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?	3.8 What is good and what is challenging about being a teenage Sikh or Buddhist or Muslim in Britain today?	
					3.9 Should happiness be the purpose of life?	
<b>Living</b> us practices and about values an		<ul> <li>1.8 How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?</li> <li>Quantitative and qualitative and qualitative and company the company of the comp</li></ul>	L2.9 What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong?	U2.7 What matters most to Christians and Humanists?  U2.8 What difference does it make to believe in ahimsa (harmlessness), grace, and/or Ummah (community)?	3.10 Does religion help people to be good?	
	F6. What is special about our world?		tive data e.g. census data		3.11 What difference does it make to believe in?	
(Religious questions ak			of knowledge, such as: history,	(community):	3.12 Is religion a power for peace or a cause of conflict in the world today?	
		anthropology, sociology, political science and law				

#### DISCIPLINE LOCATING IN THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Most of this unit is Theology: 'Believing'

#### Key Question: 1.1 Who is a Christian and what do they believe?

The **principal aim of RE** is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

#### Strand / Questions/ Religions

Strand: Believing

Recommended Y1

#### Questions in this thread:

- 1.2 Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?
- 1.3 Who is Jewish and what do they believe?
- L2.1 What do different people believe about God?
- U2.1 Why do some people believe God exists? 3.1 Do we need to prove God's existence?

#### Religions and worldviews: Christians

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to be able to achieve some of these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage:

#### **Emerging:**

- Talk about the fact that Christians believe in God and follow the example of Jesus (A1).
- Recognise some Christian symbols and images used to express ideas about God (A3).

#### Expected:

- Talk about some simple ideas about Christian beliefs about God and Jesus (A1).
- Re-tell a story that shows what Christians might think about God, in words, drama and pictures, suggesting what it means (A2).
- Talk about issues of good and bad, right and wrong arising from the stories (C3).
- Ask some questions about believing in God and offer some ideas of their own (C1).

#### Exceeding:

- Make links between what Jesus taught and what Christians believe and do (A2).
- Respond thoughtfully to a piece of Christian music and a Bible text that inspired it (B1).

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own

- Share stories that help to show how Christians think of God e.g. the book of Jonah in the Old Testament, the Annunciation (Luke1:26–56), the lost son (Luke 15:11–32) and Pentecost (Acts 2:1–13).
- Describe some of the beliefs that Christians hold about God e.g. all-powerful, loving, close to every person, forgiving.
- Look at art and recognise some symbols and images used to express ideas about God.
- Listen to pieces of music that express ideas about God.
- Talk to Christians about what they believe about God.
- Give opportunities for children to reflect on and express their own big
  questions about life and God, in particular through discussion, art, music and
  drama e.g responding to the question 'Where is God?' through art.
- Using a suitable children's Bible (e.g. The Lion Storyteller Bible or New International Children's Version), share stories that show the importance of Jesus to Christians e.g. a parable, a miracle, a teaching of Jesus, birth and death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Linking with these stories, describe some of the beliefs that Christians hold about Jesus e.g. that he was kind to people in need, that he performed miracles, that he is the son of God, that he lives.
- Investigate how Christians follow teaching from the Bible about how to live their lives e.g. prayer and worship, treating others kindly. Hear and think about some prayers Christians use.
- Experience thanking and being thanked, praising and being praised, and connect this experience simply to an idea about worship.
- Explore what the idea of God means for the children themselves.

Philosophy or 'Thinking'

Human & Social Sciences or 'Living'

#### Key Question: 1.1 Who is a Christian and what do they believe?

#### **Believing: Theology**

#### Learning Outcomes:

#### Expected:

- Talk about some simple ideas about Christian beliefs about God and Jesus (A1).
- Re-tell a story that shows what Christians might think about God, in words, drama and pictures, suggesting what it means (A2).
- Talk about issues of good and bad, right and wrong arising from the stories (C3).
- Ask some questions about believing in God and offer some ideas of their own (C1).

#### Disciplinary Methodology/Tools:

- Hermeneutics
- Interpretation
- Exegesis
- Textual Criticism
- Studying Biblical Languages
- Art criticism
- Art history

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own

- Share stories that help to show how Christians think of God e.g. the book of Jonah in the Old Testament, the Annunciation (Luke1:26–56), the lost son (Luke 15:11–32) and Pentecost (Acts 2:1–13).
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- Listen to pieces of music that express ideas about God.
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- Experience thanking and being thanked, praising and being praised, and connect this experience simply to an idea about worship.
- Explore what the idea of God means for the children themselves.

## Bringing Out the Theological Approach:

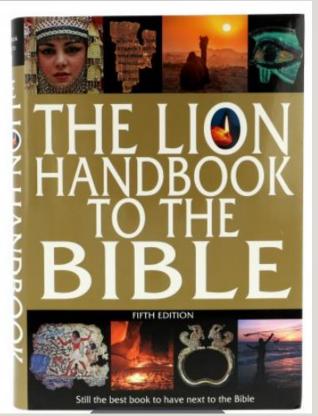
- Analysing & annotating Bible stories studied (teacher modelling):
  - Who wrote this? When?Why was this written?
  - What do I think it means?
- Engage in art criticism looking at Christian art (teacher modelling):
  - Who painted this?
  - When was it painted and why?
  - What symbolism is present e.g. representing Trinity?
  - How is Jesus represented and why?
- Examine words used to describe God in the Bible. What do they mean in Hebrew? E.g. Yahweh, Elohim, omni-words

### DEVELOPING QUESTIONS FOR ENQUIRY

- Do all Christians believe the same things? How can we find out?
- Do all Christians live in the same way because of their beliefs?
- Is there one way to be a Christian?
- What is most important to Christians?

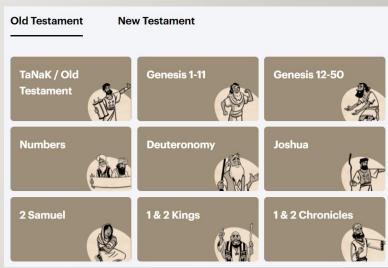


#### GETTING THE INFORMATION YOU NEED









https://bibleproject.com/explore/bookoverviews/

https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts

https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Glossary/Common Terms/Common Terms.html

#### DISCIPLINE LOCATING IN THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Most of this unit is Philosophy: 'Expressing'

#### Key Question L2.4 Why do people pray?

The **principal aim of RE** is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

#### Strand / Questions/ Religions

#### Strand: Expressing

Questions in this thread: F3 Which places are special and

- why?
- 1.5 What makes some places sacred?
- U2.4 If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?
- 3.6 Should religious buildings be sold to feed the starving?

#### Religions and worldviews

Christians, Hindus and/or Muslims

#### **Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to be able to achieve some of these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage:

#### **Emerging:**

- Describe what some believers say and do when they pray (A1).
- Respond thoughtfully to examples of how praying helps religious believers (B2).

#### Expected:

- Describe the practice of prayer in the religions studied (A2).
- Make connections between what people believe about prayer and what they do when they pray (A3).
- Describe ways in which prayer can comfort and challenge believers (B2).
- Describe and comment on similarities and differences between how Christians, Muslims and Hindus pray (B3).

#### Exceeding:

- Explain similarities and differences between how people pray (B3).
- Consider and evaluate the significance of prayer in the lives of people today (A1).

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their ow

- Discover and think about the meanings of the words of key prayers in three religions e.g. the Muslim First Surah of the Qur'an, the Christian Lord's Prayer and the Hindu Gayatri Mantra.
- Learn that Hindus, Muslims and Christians pray in many different ways, both using set forms of words and more spontaneously, and the three religions believe similar and different ideas about how God hears prayers.
- Consider the idea that some people are spiritual but not religious and like to pray in their own way.
- Consider the idea that some people are atheists who believe it is more use to be kind or to help someone than to pray for them.
- Find out about some symbols used in prayers in different religions.
- Explore connections between prayer in three different religions.
- Explore the impact of prayer: Does it enable people to feel calm, hopeful, inspired, close to God or challenged? How?
- Ask good questions about answered and unanswered prayer and find out some answers to these questions.
- Discuss and consider the impact of praying in some stories from inside the religions, e.g. stories of answered prayer, or of the origin of a prayer in ancient India, in Jesus' teaching or in the Holy Qur'an.
- Make links between beliefs and practice of prayer in different religions.
- Weigh up the value and impact of these key ideas for themselves.

Theology or 'Believing'

Human & Social Sciences or 'Living'

#### Key Question L2.4 Why do people pray?

#### **Expressing: Philosophy**

#### Learning Outcomes:

#### Expected:

- Describe the practice of prayer in the religions studied (A2).
- Make connections between what people believe about prayer and what they do when they pray (A3).
- Describe ways in which prayer can comfort and challenge believers (B2).
- Describe and comment on similarities and differences between how Christians, Muslims and Hindus pray (B3).

#### Disciplinary Methodology/Tools:

- Reasoning
- Epistemological questioning
- Thought experiments
- Philosophy of religion
- Metaphysics
- Ethical theory

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own.

- Discover and think about the meanings of the words of key prayers in three religions – e.g. the Muslim First Surah of the Qur'an, the Christian Lord's Prayer and the Hindu Gayatri Mantra.
- Learn that Hindus, Muslims and Christians pray in many different ways, both using set forms of words and more spontaneously, and the three religions believe similar and different ideas about how God hears prayers.
- Consider the idea that some people are spiritual but not religious and like to pray in their own way.
- Consider the idea that some people are atheists who believe it is more use to be kind or to help someone than to pray for them.
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- Discuss and consider the impact of praying in some stories from inside the religions, e.g. stories of answered prayer, or of the origin of a prayer in ancient India, in Jesus' teaching or in the Holy Qur'an.
- Make links between beliefs and practice of prayer in different religions.
- Weigh up the value and impact of these key ideas for themselves.

Bringing Out the Human & Social Sciences Approach:

- Pose some philosophical questions for pupils to discuss:
  - How do we know prayer achieves/changes anything?
  - Can we trust the outcomes some believers attribute to prayer?
- Debate: Was something always going to happen or did prayer change it? How could we know?
- Ethical dilemma: Is it unethical to pray for someone when what they need is help?
- Can anyone pray even if they are not a believer? E.g. in times of crisis, fear, doubt?
- What is prayer to me?

#### PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS ABOUT PRAYER

The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.

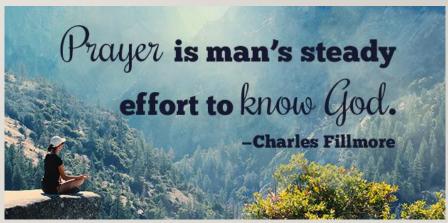
Prayer is to religion what thinking is to philosophy.

To pray is to make religion.

Novalis

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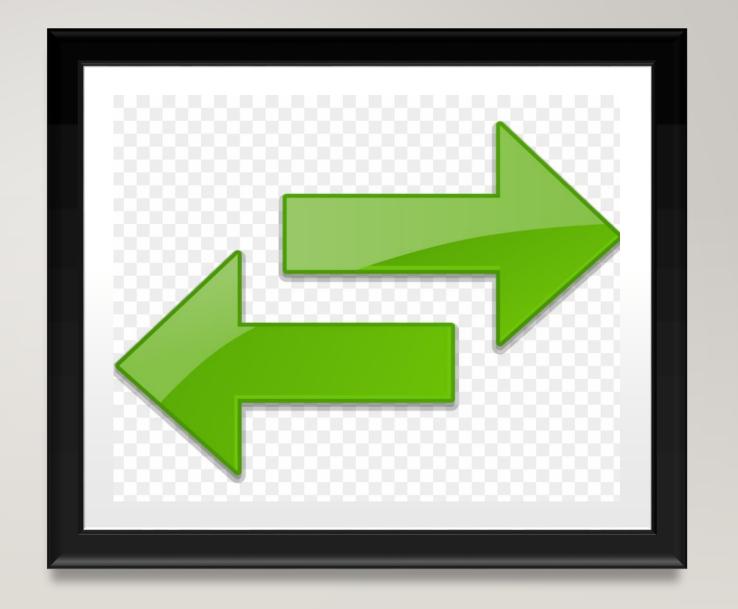




Kierkegaard

PICTUREQU®TES

SWITCHING THE DISCIPLINARY FOCUS TO BRING BALANCE TO A PHASE/KEY STAGE RE CURRICULUM



#### Key Question L2.4 Why do people pray?

#### **Living: Human & Social Sciences**

#### Learning Outcomes:

#### Expected:

- Describe the practice of prayer in the religions studied (A2).
- Make connections between what people believe about prayer and what they do when they pray (A3).
- Describe ways in which prayer can comfort and challenge believers (B2).
- Describe and comment on similarities and differences between how Christians, Muslims and Hindus pray (B3).

#### Disciplinary Methodology/Tools:

- Quantitative and qualitative data e.g. census data
- Ethnographic studies
- Observation
- Classification
- Interviews
- Case studies
- Surveys
- · Encounter with adherents
- Drawing on other bodies of knowledge, such as: history, anthropology, sociology, political science and law

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own.

- Discover and think about the meanings of the words of key prayers in three religions – e.g. the Muslim First Surah of the Qur'an, the Christian Lord's Prayer and the Hindu Gayatri Mantra.
- Learn that Hindus, Muslims and Christians pray in many different ways, both using set forms of words and more spontaneously, and the three religions believe similar and different ideas about how God hears prayers.
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- Make links between beliefs and practice of prayer in different religions.
- Weigh up the value and impact of these key ideas for themselves.

## Bringing Out the Human & Social Sciences Approach:

- Invite a visitor in to school (remotely or in person) from each faith to share some key prayers and/or demonstrate prayer practices. Pupils to observe and interview faith representative.
- Invite several representatives from the same religious worldview, predict what they will say about prayer based on prior knowledge & then listen to what they say.

  Compare responses & evaluate own predictions.
- Conduct a survey of people in school community (parents, teachers, governors etc) about prayer and personal practice.
   What have they found out?
- Visit places of worship and observe prayer in action, search for symbols used in prayer.
- Classify examples of answers to prayer- miraculous, practical, emotional etc.

## DISCIPLINE LOCATING IN THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Most of this unit is Human & Social Sciences: 'Living'

#### Key Question 3.10: Does religion help people to be good?

The **principal aim of RE** is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

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ills needed to appreciate and appraise varied i		
Learning outcomes (intended to enable		
pupils to achieve end of key stage		
outcomes):		
Teachers will enable pupils to be able to		
achieve some of these outcomes, as		
appropriate to their age and stage:		
Emerging:		
<ul> <li>Respond thoughtfully to religious and</li> </ul>		
non-religious sources of moral guidance		
(A2).		
<ul> <li>Describe religious teachings which</li> </ul>		
encourage loving actions (B2).		
Expected:		
Give examples of ways in which religious		
and non-religious principles guide people		
in living good lives (B2).		
<ul> <li>Analyse examples of religious and non-</li> </ul>		
religious principles and come to a view of		
what is 'good' (C1).		
<ul> <li>Formulate an account of how religious</li> </ul>		
teachings help people to be good (A2).		
Weigh up the value of religion in		
benefitting individuals and society (B2).		

Exceeding:

to be good (C3).

Justify a supported response to the

Offer reasons for a range of ways in which

religion inspires moral behaviour, and

sometimes immoral behaviour (B2).

question of whether religion helps people

Christians, Muslims,

Sikhs, Buddhist, non-

e.g. Humanists

religious ethical views

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own

- Talk to religious believers (perhaps by visiting a religious community, e.g. a church coffee
  morning, or a mosque at iftar), ask them about whether belonging to a religious community
  helps them be good people, and if so, why.
- Enquire into religious rules which generate loving, charitable actions in the world. For
  example: sewa (selfless service) in Sikhism, an essential part of Vand Chakna ('sharing what
  you have'), one of the three Sikh essential approaches to life.
- Compare religious moral rules with non-religious moral principles. For example, enquire into non-religious ethicist Peter Singer's charity The Life you can Save. Singer is not inspired by God to be good; debate how far God or religion encourages and inspires loving actions.
- Consider humanity from a Christian perspective of being at once 'fallen' and 'in the image of God'. How do these two states show themselves in individual lives, and the actions of church institutions?
- Find out what 'good' involves in Buddhist communal life. Try a 'loving kindness' meditation with the class. Focus on moral actions: Right Speech, Right Action and Right Livelihood in the Eightfold Path. What approach to living do these principles demand? Note that Buddhists do not have a concept of sin or sinful nature. The Buddha often used the terms skilful (good) and unskilful (bad) to describe human choices and actions. Some Buddhists use the term 'wise' in preference to 'good'. Discuss what difference it makes to strive for 'skilful' actions rather than 'unskilful' ones, or for 'wisdom' rather than 'goodness'.
- Consider the importance of submission in Islam (translation: 'islam' = submission). Consider
  why Ibrahim's willingness to saerifice his Ismail made him the perfect Muslim. For Muslims,
  what is the necessity and benefit of submission to Allah?
- Beffect on reasons why someone might say 'no' in answer to the key question: history of
  religious intolerance and injustice [e.g. Inquisition, Apartheid], teachings and practices [sexist,
  racist], tribalism [Crusades, claimed holy wars, 'Islamic State'], hypocrisy [WW2 church
  collusion with Nazis], moral atheists [Peter Singer].
- Reflect on reasons why someone might say 'yes' to the key question: examples of moral excellence, service, supporting the vulnerable, challenging institutional indifference or moral degradation e.g. slave trade.

Theology or 'Believing

Philosophy or 'Expressing'

#### Key Question 3.10: Does religion help people to be good?

### **Living: Human & Social Sciences**

#### Learning Outcomes:

#### Expected:

- Give examples of ways in which religious and non-religious principles guide people in living good lives (B2).
- Analyse examples of religious and nonreligious principles and come to a view of what is 'good' (C1).
- Formulate an account of how religious teachings help people to be good (A2).
- Weigh up the value of religion in benefitting individuals and society (B2).

#### Disciplinary Methodology/Tools:

- Quantitative and qualitative data e.g. census data
- Ethnographic studies
- Observation
- Classification
- Interviews
- Case studies
- Surveys
- Encounter with adherents
- Drawing on other bodies of knowledge, such as: history, anthropology, sociology, political science and law

#### Suggested content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own

- Talk to religious believers (perhaps by visiting a religious community, e.g. a church coffee
  morning, or a mosque at iftar), ask them about whether belonging to a religious community
  helps them be good people, and if so, why.
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  racist], tribalism [Crusades, claimed holy wars, 'Islamic State'], hypocrisy [WW2 church
  collusion with Nazis], moral atheists [Peter Singer].
- Reflect on reasons why someone might say 'yes' to the key question: examples of moral
  excellence, service, supporting the vulnerable, challenging institutional indifference or moral
  degradation e.g. slave trade.

## Bringing Out the Human & Social Sciences Approach:

- Interview and observe religious communities in action serving/welcoming others
- Survey Sikhs on what sewa means to them & observe sewa in action/watch a video e.g. Langar Aid feeding the homeless
- Pose questions to believers and non-religious people e.g. does service hold the same value irrespective or why you do it?
- Interview Christians about what they and the church do that is intrinsically good. Is it because of their nature in the image of God or something else?
- Invite a panel of individuals from different religions & worldviews to discuss what 'right action' is and what it looks like.
- What does it mean to be good in terms of law? Do the guidance in sacred texts align with what the law says is morally good?

## Audits are available at primary and secondary to help you look at the disciplinary in your existing RE Curriculum



### Theology – this is about <u>believing</u>

1. Does your RE curriculum look at: Where beliefs come from?

For example, does your RE curriculum enable pupils to examine:

#### a) Sacred texts and sources of authority

E.g. Stories contained in sacred texts /narratives from a range of religious traditions such as those contained in the Bible, Qur'an, Torah, Bhagavad Gita; consideration of genre, author, context, target audience; other sources of authority, e.g. creeds, statements of belief, tradition, reason, experience, laws/moral guidance. For instance, examples may include the Haggadah used during the Seder meal, the Ardas and the Shahadah

#### b) Teachings about and interpretations of beliefs

E.g. Engagement with the thinking of a diversity of believers from a range of religious traditions e.g. blog post, sermon, newspaper article, artwork, such as the members of faith blogs available on RE:ONLINE or a parish/circuit magazine article

#### c) Texts produced by people who have reasoned and written about beliefs

E.g. Writings (teachings and interpretations) of key theologians from a range of religious traditions. In the primary phase context this might include quotes from religious teachers such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Aung San Suu Kyi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#### d) How experiences have impacted on beliefs

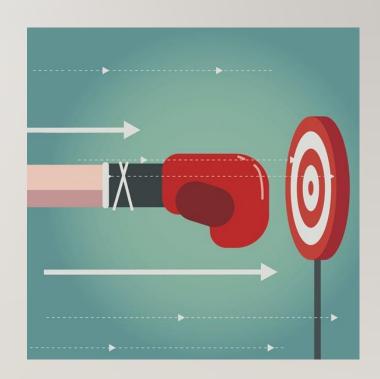
E.g. Examples of ways in which experiences/events have impacted on the way believers have understood and acted on their beliefs. These might include Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus, the story of Bilal, the Hanukkah narrative concerning the oil lasting eight days, impact of scientific discoveries on belief and vice versa, an account of a miracle at Lourdes

## BENEFITS OF A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

- Supports pupil curiosity
- Encourages pupils to take religion and worldviews seriously
- Gives pupils confidence to look at the world critically
- Supports pupils in analysing and reflecting on their own worldviews
- Allows pupils to challenge stereotypes and unpick unchallenged assumptions
- Encourages pupils to explore new and different ways of thinking
- Affirms that disagreement is acceptable, normal and healthy and can be done well within an academic environment
- Leads pupils to experience discomfort that leads to analysis and questioning
- Allows pupils to engage in meaningful encounters with alternative worldviews
- Fosters a love of the subject and the way in which it, as a multidisciplinary subject, "engages with much of the human endeavour for knowledge and understanding" (Georgiou and Wright, Reforming RE by Mark Chater, 2020)
- Promotes RE as an intellectually rigorous subject approached with greater clarity

## **IMPACT ON PUPILS**

- Access to a broad and balanced curriculum which allows pupils to develop skills and knowledge across a range of academic disciplines
- Develops engaged and critically aware young people
- Pupils' ability to respond to wider issues with critical and analytical skills that facilitate genuine discussion, challenge and change
- Pupils develop skills useful to the workplace outside of the world of RE



## PUPILS AS DISCIPLINARY DETECTIVES



## INTRODUCING THE DISCIPLINES TO PUPILS

- Talk about 'lenses' and approaching religious material in different ways. Start by thinking about what their own lenses might be e.g. their own beliefs, opinions and experiences, the influences of family, peers and the media.
- Then introduce the different disciplinary lenses. You might try displaying something that says 'Today we are theologians... philosophers... sociologists...' and a list of traits for each of those, with the kinds of questions they might ask
- Try a 'double entry journal' where pupils ask themselves
  questions about a text/ practice/ religious content before and
  after a lesson so they think like a theologian, philosopher, etc.



## INTRODUCING THE DISCIPLINES TO PUPILS



- Get used to being 'Disciplinary Detectives' during RE lessons.
   Invite pupils to identify which discipline(s) they are working within during the lesson.
- Encourage pupils to identify themselves as 'theologians',
   'philosophers' and 'human and social sciences' and together
   produce a list of the kind of skills and knowledge they are
   developing within each discipline, in terms pupils will understand.



Discipline	Methodology	Tools
Theology	Conducting surveys & interviews	Translations & interpretations
Philosophy	Hermeneutics (interpretation)	Sacred texts
Human & Social Sciences	Annotation of sacred texts	Philosophical arguments
	Observing practices (lived religion)	'Living Library': people
	Discussion & debate	Religious art
		Census data
		Thought experiments

## CLASSROOM DISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE

- Invite pupils to engage with the question 'How will I know?'
- Build 'pondering time' into RE lessons
- Critique resources together: Is this the best method/way for us to learn about this? What might be better? Are we getting different perspectives or just one?
- Share with pupils how you know about things related to RE. Which disciplines have you used as a teacher?



## **SOME MORE WAYS IN...**

The RE Searchers approach by Exeter University is a gentle way to introduce younger pupils to the methodology associated with different disciplinary approaches:





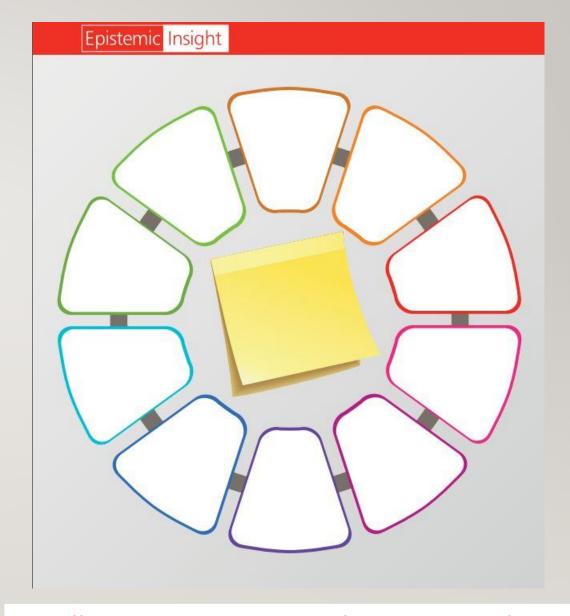




See-the-story Suzie

There are introductory videos for each character, planning and background information on the theory behind the approach.

https://www.reonline.org.uk/re-searchers-approach/#:~:text=RE-searchers%20Approach%20A%20team%20from%20Exeter%20University%20and,methodologies%20and%20methods%20of%20enquiry%20in%20Religious%20Education



https://www.epistemicinsight.com/permeable-walls/
is a multi-disciplinary approach based on Big Questions

## **BALANCED REAND BIG QUESTIONS**

• Posing 'Big Questions' in RE can help pupils to develop their 'epistemic knowledge'. This refers to their ability to understand the knowledge and 'knowing' they are using so they can navigate and communicate this knowledge themselves.

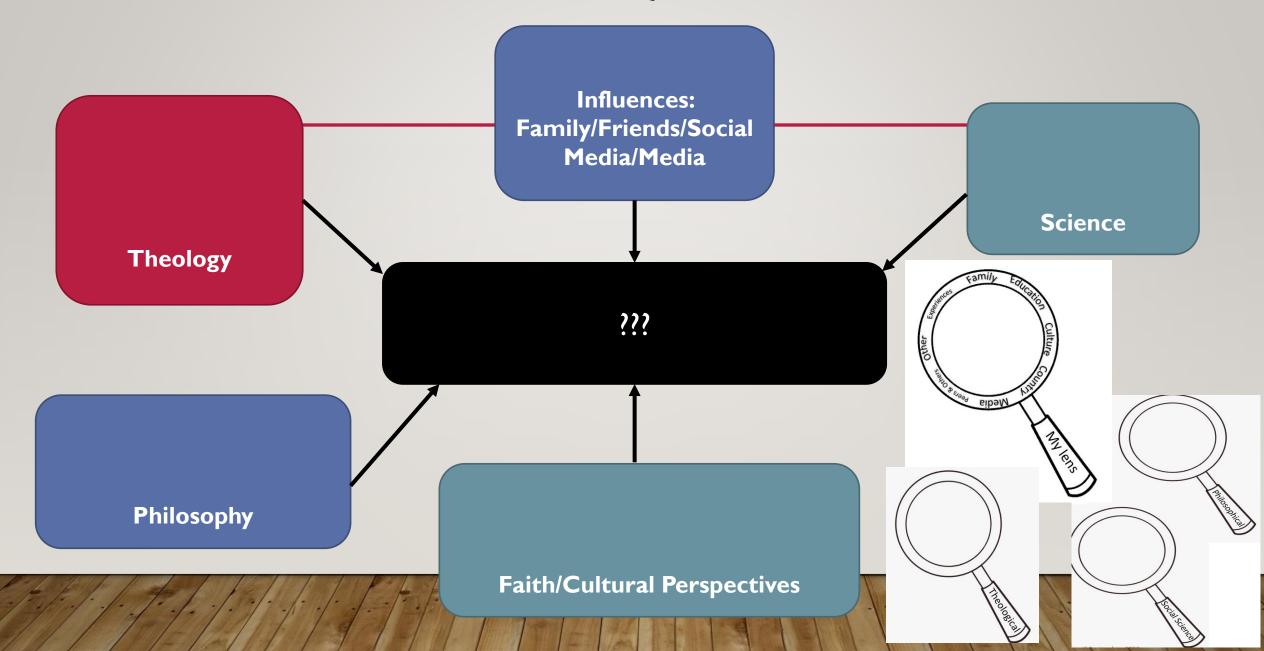
Questions such as:

- Why did the universe begin?
- □ Is there life after death?
- ☐ How do we know what 'good' or 'bad' is?
- ☐ How do we know if something is right or wrong?
- ☐ Does God exist?
- Why am I here?

When trying to answer these questions, do pupils know where their ideas are coming from? Are they drawing on theology, philosophy or their knowledge of human behaviour and practices? What impact does their own worldview have on the answers they give?

Develop
questions
within units
that add
richness to
the
overarching
unit
question

## **BALANCED REAND BIG QUESTIONS**



# DISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR OWN RECURRICULUM

- Choose some units from the CWAS to analyse yourself, looking for examples of the 3 disciplines within the unit.
- Attempt to include your own disciplinary activities, making use of disciplinary tools/methodology where this is not explicit in the CWAS.



- Ensure you understand what the 3 disciplines are so that you can explain these to staff first and then pupils
- Identify where the 3 disciplines major within your RE LTP. If you are light on some, consider how you might include more. **Use the**CE primary and secondary audits to help you.
  - Lead staff training on a multi-disciplinary approach to RE
  - Draw upon prior CPD on Warwickshire SACRE website
    - Introduce the disciplines to pupils
  - Identify the disciplines within RE lessons so that pupils are 'Disciplinary Detectives'

## **EVALUATIONS PLEASE**

 We will send out an electronic evaluation form following this session. Please take a few minutes to complete it so we can continue to tailor our CPD sessions to your needs.

