

## Hartford Church of England High School – Year 8 Religious Studies

Year 8	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6
<b>Topic(s)</b>	How do Moral Virtues Influence Hinduism Today?	What do Creation Stories Teach About the Nature of God?	Why is Belief in One God Important in Sikhism?	What are the Arguments About the Existence of God?	Who is the Buddha?	What Does it Mean to Live a 'Good Life'?
<b>Focus</b>	This unit explores how Hindu beliefs about God, karma, and dharma influence moral virtues and everyday life. Students will examine concepts such as the Trimurti, sacred stories, and beliefs about life after death, considering how these shape ethical behaviour and religious practice today.	This unit explores what creation stories reveal about the nature of God and how religious beliefs interact with scientific explanations of the universe. Students will examine Christian creation narratives alongside scientific theories such as the Big Bang and Evolution, evaluating different perspectives on whether faith and science are compatible.	This unit explores why belief in one God is central to Sikhism and how this shapes Sikh identity, practice, and moral behaviour. Students will study the teachings of Guru Nanak, the significance of the Gurus, the 5Ks and the concept of Sewa, considering how these beliefs influence Sikh life today.	This unit explores key philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God, including religious experience, miracles, design, cosmology, and the problem of evil and suffering. Students will evaluate how different viewpoints shape belief, atheism, and responses to unanswered questions about God.	This unit explores the life and teachings of the Buddha and how they shape Buddhist beliefs about suffering, human nature, and enlightenment. Students will examine key concepts such as the Four Sights, the Five Precepts, karma, meditation, considering how these influence Buddhist ways of living.	This unit explores what it means to live a 'good life' by examining Humanist beliefs alongside religious perspectives on morality, ethics, and decision making. Students will consider how different worldviews shape ideas about right and wrong, purpose, and how people choose to live ethically without belief in God.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Hinduism, Trimurti, Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Dharma, Karma, reincarnation, Ramayana, Moksha	Creation, Genesis, Big Bang Theory, Evolution, creator, omnipotent, omniscient, stewardship, faith, science	Sikhism, Ik Onkar, Guru Nanak, Guru, Khalsa, 5Ks, Guru Granth Sahib, Sewa, karma, reincarnation	Theism, atheism, agnosticism, miracle, religious experience, design argument, cosmological argument, evil, suffering, faith	Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, enlightenment, four sights, karma, samsara, nirvana, meditation, Sangha, Five Precepts	Humanism, ethics, morality, atheism, belief, values, responsibility, consequence, secular, afterlife
<b>Assessment</b>	Extended Critical Writing: How Similar are the Christian Trinity and the Hindu Trimurti?  End of topic knowledge test:	Extended Critical Writing: What is the Theological Significance of Creation?  End of topic knowledge test:	Extended Critical Writing: To What Extent Does Monotheism Influence Sikh Practices?  End of topic knowledge test:	Extended Critical Writing: To What Extent Does the Design Argument Effectively Explain the Origins of the Universe?	Extended Critical Writing: How Similar are Buddhist and Christian Attitudes to Suffering?  End of topic knowledge test:	Extended Critical Writing: To What Extent are Social Attitudes Towards Religion and Non-religion Shifting?  End of topic knowledge test:

	multiple choice, short answer responses	multiple choice, short answer responses	multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	multiple choice, short answer responses	multiple choice, short answer responses
<b>Curriculum Thread</b>	Beliefs and teachings, practices, morality, attitudes towards life after death, morality, faith and meaning	Beliefs and teachings, sources of authority, creation, religion and science	Beliefs and teachings, practices, authority, faith and meaning, identity	Beliefs and teachings, sources of authority, worldviews, philosophical enquiry, existence of God	Beliefs and teachings, practices, faith and meaning, ethical living, worship	Beliefs, values and ethics, religion, worldviews, ethical living
<b>Wider Reading</b>	<p>'Hinduism' - Kim Knott</p> <p>'Introducing Hinduism' - Hillary Rodrigues</p> <p>'The Forest of Enchantments' - Chitra Banerjee</p>	<p>'Science and Religion: A New Introduction' - Alister E. McGrath</p> <p>'The Language of God' - Francis S. Collins</p> <p>'The House of One Hundred Clocks' - A.M. Howell</p>	<p>'Sikhism' by Dorothy Field</p> <p>'An Introduction to Sikhism' - W. Owen Cole and Piara Singh Sambhi</p> <p>'A Gift of Grace' - Narinder Dhani</p>	<p>'Is There a God?' - Louie Stowell</p> <p>'Does God Exist?' - John F. Haught</p> <p>'The Explorer' - Katherin Rundell</p>	<p>'Buddhism' - Donald S. Lopez Jr.</p> <p>'Introducing Buddhism' - Charles S. Prebish and Damien Keown</p> <p>'The Boy Who Biked the World' - Alistair Humphreys</p>	<p>'Humanism: A Very Short Introduction' - Stephen Law</p> <p>'The Humanist Way' - Dale McGowan</p> <p>'The Giver' - Lois Lowry</p>