

**GCSE Curriculum intent**

To equip students to be able to articulate, evaluate, challenge and form their own core beliefs about key concepts that form a person's attitude and worldview toward moral issues that will impact their future choices.

All students at Key Stage 4 study AQA GCSE Religious Studies Short Course.

Short Course Curriculum Overview**Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings****Section B: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies**

Islam

Christianity

Relationships and families

Religion, peace and conflict

Key Question

What are key beliefs and teachings of Islam?

What are key beliefs and teachings of Christianity?

What are religious and non-religious beliefs about relationships and families?

What are religious and non-religious beliefs about religion, peace and conflict?

Key Vocabulary

Tawhid
Adalat/justice
Angels
Prophethood
Imamate
Aakhirah
Day of Judgement
Heaven
Hell
Predestination

Ascension
Atonement
Crucifixion
Trinity
Salvation
Resurrection
Original sin
Omnipotent
Incarnation
Means of salvation
Creation

Cohabitation
Contraception
Gender equality
Gender discrimination
Polygamy
Procreation
Same-sex relationship
Remarriage
Divorce
Family planning

Just war
Pacifism
Nuclear deterrence
Weapons of Mass Destruction
Terrorism
Reconciliation
Retaliation
Peace-making
Holy war
Victims of war

	The knowledge you will need to recall:	How you will apply this knowledge:	This links to:
1	1. Christianity as a major religious tradition in Great Britain, with awareness of diversity within Christianity. 2. Key beliefs about the nature of God, including omnipotence, love, justice, the Trinity, and beliefs about creation. 3. Christian beliefs about the afterlife, including resurrection, judgement, heaven and hell. 4. Beliefs about Jesus Christ, including incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. 5. Christian teachings on sin, salvation, grace, law, Spirit and atonement, with reference to Christian sources of wisdom and authority.	1. Students answer questions on two religions, using recalled Christian beliefs and teachings accurately. 2. Apply knowledge to structured exam questions made up of 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 mark parts. 3. Use scripture and Christian sources of wisdom and authority to support explanations and evaluations. 4. Explain and compare common and differing Christian viewpoints, including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant perspectives. 5. Evaluate the influence of Christian beliefs and teachings on individuals, communities and society.	This links to Key Stage 3 because studying Early Christianity and Jesus introduces students to key Christian beliefs about Jesus' life, teachings, crucifixion, resurrection and salvation. It also builds a foundation for understanding Christian teachings about God, sin, atonement and the afterlife, which are explored further at GCSE.
2	1. Islam as a diverse religious tradition in Great Britain, with awareness of both Sunni and Shi'a Islam. 2. The Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam and the Five Roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam, including similarities and differences. 3. Key beliefs about the nature of God, including Tawhid, omnipotence, mercy, beneficence, fairness and justice (Adalat), and ideas of immanence and transcendence. 4. Beliefs about angels, predestination and human freedom, and the Day of Judgement. 5. Islamic beliefs about Akhirah (life after death), resurrection, heaven and hell, and the role of human responsibility and accountability.	1. Students answer questions on two religions, using accurate Islamic beliefs and teachings. 2. Apply knowledge to structured exam questions made up of 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 mark parts. 3. Use Islamic sources of wisdom and authority, including the Qur'an and other holy books, to support explanations and evaluations. 4. Explain and compare Sunni and Shi'a perspectives, including the role of prophethood and the imamate. 5. Evaluate the influence of Islamic beliefs and teachings on individuals, communities and society.	This links to Key Stage 3 because studying Islam introduces students to key beliefs about God (Allah), the prophets, the Qur'an and the Five Pillars, including practices like prayer and fasting. It also provides a foundation for understanding Islamic teachings about human responsibility, the afterlife, and moral guidance, which are studied in greater depth at GCSE.

	The knowledge you will need to recall:	How you will apply this knowledge:	This links to:
1	1. Religious teachings and ethical arguments about relationships, marriage and family life. 2. Christian beliefs about contraception, sex before marriage and same-sex relationships, and contrasting religious or non-religious views. 3. Teachings about marriage, cohabitation, divorce and remarriage, including the importance of vows, sanctity of marriage and compassion. 4. Different types of family structures, including nuclear and extended families, and their purposes. 5. Beliefs about gender roles, gender equality, and examples of gender prejudice and discrimination in society.	1. Students answer questions on both themes using accurate religious and ethical understanding. 2. Apply knowledge to structured exam questions made up of 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 mark parts. 3. Explain and compare Christian teachings with contrasting religious or non-religious viewpoints. 4. Use ethical arguments to explain and evaluate different perspectives on relationships and family issues. 5. Evaluate the impact of religious teachings on individuals, families and contemporary British society.	This links to Key Stage 3 because studying relationships and family builds on topics such as creation and sin and using scripture to inform ethical debates. This prior learning supports the GCSE Christianity Relationships and Families theme by providing a foundation to explain and evaluate Christian beliefs about marriage, divorce, contraception, same-sex relationships and the purpose of families.
2	1. Religious, philosophical and ethical teachings about peace, violence, war and conflict. 2. The meanings of peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. 3. Religious teachings on violence, terrorism, pacifism, holy war and the just war theory. 4. Reasons for war, including self-defence, greed and retaliation. 5. Beliefs about nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence and weapons of mass destruction, and religious responses to modern conflict.	1. Students answer questions on both themes using accurate religious and ethical understanding. 2. Apply knowledge to structured exam questions made up of 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 mark parts. 3. Explain a Christian belief and a contrasting belief on violence, pacifism and weapons of mass destruction. 4. Use religious, philosophical and ethical arguments to explain and evaluate different viewpoints. 5. Evaluate the influence of religious teachings on peace-making and responses to victims of war in the modern world.	This links to Key Stage 3 because studying Is war ever just?, Evil and Suffering, and Early Christianity and Jesus introduces students to ideas about violence, justice, forgiveness, pacifism and the causes of conflict. This prior learning supports the GCSE Religion, Peace and Conflict theme by providing a foundation to explain and evaluate Christian beliefs about war, pacifism, just war, holy war, forgiveness, reconciliation and responses to suffering.