

Freman College RE Curriculum Map

A year

Students study the following topics so that they can explore the two aims of the Agreed Syllabus:

A: To develop knowledge and understanding of sources of wisdom from religions and worldviews and their impact.

B: To develop personal and critical responses to religion and worldviews.

Term 1: The Nature of God

In this topic students study the key beliefs about the nature of God from the perspective of four major world religions; this allows them to recognise and explore similarities and differences which exist within and between religious worldviews. It also helps them to know, understand and explore the significance and impact of sacred texts and other sources of wisdom.

Term 2: Life after Death

In this topic students study the beliefs about life after death from the perspective of three major world religions and non-religious explanations of phenomenon such as past-life memories and near-death experiences; this allows them to engage with the questions and responses offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions.

Term 3: Prejudice and Discrimination

In this topic students study issues related to equality and diversity and religious responses from two major world religions; this allows them to express ideas and insights about the nature of beliefs, values and practices and their impact on the identity of individuals and communities. It also helps students to develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion.

Term 4: Philosophical Questions

In this topic students study some of the perennial questions of philosophy, such as the existence of God, the nature of reality and the problems with knowledge; this allows them to express with increasing discernment their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith and belief.

Term 5: Ethical Issues

In this topic students study some important ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and animal rights from the perspectives of two major world religions; this allows them to engage with questions about human responsibility and faith responses to spiritual, philosophical, moral and ethical issues.

GCSE Religious Studies

Students study the AQA GCSE Religious Studies A course which aims to encourage students to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts and scriptures of the religions they are studying
- develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- reflect on and develop their own values, belief, meaning, purpose, truth and their influence on human life
- reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

I year

Students study the following modules in the first year of the course:

- (i) Christian Beliefs and Teachings
- (ii) Hindu Beliefs and Teachings
- (iii) Religion and Life
- (iv) Religion, Crime and Punishment

The first two modules allow students to study the key beliefs and teachings of Christianity and Hinduism and their basis in sources of wisdom and authority.

The next two modules allow students to consider contrasting beliefs on the following issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions:

- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Animal experimentation

- Corporal punishment
- The death penalty
- Forgiveness

E year

Students study the following modules in the second year of the course:

- (i) Christian Practices
- (ii) Hindu Practices
- (iii) The Existence of God and Revelation
- (iv) Religion, War and Peace

The first two modules allow students to study the religious practices of Christianity and Hinduism and their basis in sources of wisdom and authority.

The next two modules allow students to consider contrasting beliefs on the following issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism:

- Visions
- Miracles
- Nature as general revelation

- Violence.
- Weapons of mass destruction.
- Pacifism.

GCE A level Religious Studies

Students study the Eduqas Religious Studies course which aims to encourage students to:

- Investigate ultimate questions such as ‘what is the purpose of life?’ and ‘why does evil exist?’
- Study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world.
- Improve your philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box.
- Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as medical ethics and immigration.

Course Structure

Component 1: A Study of Religion-Hinduism

This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of some of the key features of a world religion, ranging from religious figures to religious practices.

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion

This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of some of the key features of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for and against the existence of God to religious experience.

Component 3: Religion and Ethics

This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of key ethical concepts and theories, ranging from moral absolutism to Utilitarianism.

Lower Sixth Content

Students are introduced to each of the three components and study the following themes:

A Study of Hinduism:

- Religious figures and sacred texts
- Religious concepts and religious life

Philosophy of Religion:

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Challenges to religious belief

Religion and Ethics:

- Introduction to ethical thought
- Deontological and teleological ethics

Upper Sixth Content

A Study of Hinduism:

- Social and historical developments in religious thought
- Religious practices

Philosophy of Religion:

- Religious experience
- Religious language

Religion and Ethics:

- Deontological and teleological ethics (continued)
- Determinism and free will