

For information on the syllabus go to the following link;

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-b-4055/spec-at-a-glance>

For example exam questions and mark schemes go to the following link;

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-b-4055/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

You are studying Unit 6 Worship and Key Beliefs.

# *Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions*



*Beverley High School*



*RE Department*

## About the course.

You will be studying the AQA GCSE B4 syllabus. The focus is on Religious Philosophy and the 'Big Questions' of life that do not have provable answers. The course covers questions and topics on the existence of God; evil and suffering; immortality and science and religion. You will be invited to share your views and opinions on the issues raised.

## Outline of the topics we will be looking at.

### *The Existence of God;*

- Arguments for and against the existence of God and problems with those arguments;
- First Cause argument (cosmological argument);
- Design argument (teleological argument);
- Argument from miracles; religious experience and morality.
- Evaluate how plausible are the arguments and what faults lie within them?
- The terms: theist, agnostic and atheist.

### *The Problems of Evil and Suffering;*

- God's responsibility for suffering and evil, and man's response.
- What are evil and suffering? – nature, examples and definitions;
- Has suffering a purpose? How can it be unjust?
- What questions do evil and suffering raise about God's love, power and purpose?  
The concept of karma as an explanation for evil in the world;

### *Immortality;*

- Evaluation of the reasonableness of immortality.
- Ideas of what would count as immortality – reincarnation, resurrection, rebirth, a legacy etc.
- Evidence of immortality, such as scriptural accounts, ghosts Near Death Experience etc.
- Evidence against immortality - proof, science, atheism;
- The concept of dualism, and the mind/body/soul.

## Outline of the topics we will be looking at.

### *Science and Religion;*

- Scientific truth versus religious truth – what
- Why society seems to favour science over religion
- in the modern world, and the impact of this.
- Origins of the universe – Big Bang versus creation story;
- Origins of life – creation versus evolution;
- Darwin's reliance on God to make evolution work;
- To what extent science and religion can agree;

### Cross Curricular Links.

PSHE, Citizenship, History, Geography, Music, ICT, English, Science, SMSC Development; Community Cohesion.

### Marking and Assessment during the course.

Your work will be marked using the school effort grade system and, where appropriate will include comments aimed to help you improve.

There will be one piece of assessed work per unit for which you will be awarded an equivalent GCSE grade. There will also be a shorter assessed piece of work based on an exam question at appropriate times.

### R.S. Key Skills and Attitudes.

Thinking, reflection, evaluation, enquiry, application, empathy, investigation, research, synthesis, interpretation, analysis, expression, commitment, fairness, respect.

