

Hartford Church of England High School – Year 9 Religious Studies

Year 9	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6
Topic(s)	How do Christians Respond to Social Injustice?	How do Christians Respond to the Presence of Evil and Suffering?	How do Christian Beliefs Shape Attitudes Towards Medical Ethics?	What are the Defining Characteristics of 'Humanness'?	What Does Christianity Teach About the Treatment of Animals?	What Does it Mean to be a Good Steward of the Earth?
Focus	This unit explores how Christians respond to social injustice by examining issues such as prejudice, discrimination, poverty, and human rights. Students will evaluate how Christian teachings, particularly those of Jesus, influence action and responsibility at both local and global levels.	This unit explores Christian responses to the problem of evil and suffering, examining philosophical, theological, and practical perspectives. Students will evaluate ideas such as free will, the Fall, and the role of Jesus, alongside how Christian individuals and organisations respond to suffering in the world today.	This unit explores how Christian beliefs influence attitudes towards key medical ethics issues such as abortion, euthanasia, organ donation, and animal testing. Students will evaluate how concepts like the sanctity of life, suffering, and compassion shape moral decision making in modern medical contexts.	This unit explores that it means to be human by examining religious and non-religious perspectives on identity, meaning, and human uniqueness. Students will consider how Christianity and non-religious worldviews respond to emerging challenges from artificial intelligence and whether technology changes our understanding of human nature and purpose.	This unit explores Christian teachings about the treatment of animals, focusing on ideas such as stewardship, dominion, and flourishing. Students will evaluate how biblical teachings and Christian beliefs about compassion and creation influence attitudes towards animal welfare and ethical farming practices today.	This unit explores what it means to be a good steward of the Earth by examining environmental challenges and Christian teachings about creation and responsibility. Students will evaluate how beliefs about stewardship, ethics, and human duty influence responses to issues such as climate change, pollution, deforestation, and waste.
Vocabulary	Social justice, prejudice, discrimination, human rights, equality, poverty, justice, compassion, stewardship, gospel	Evil, suffering, theodicy, free will, original sin, fall, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, inconsistent triad, charity	Medical ethics, abortion, euthanasia, sanctity of life, quality of life, organ donation, transplant, suffering, morality, compassion	Humanness, identity, human nature, meaning of life, Imago Dei, artificial intelligence, consciousness, ethics, human flourishing, creation	Animal welfare, stewardship, dominion, creation, flourishing, compassion, empathy, ethics, sustainability, Genesis	Stewardship, creation, environment, climate change, sustainability, responsibility, pollution, deforestation, ethics, covenant
Assessment	Extended Critical Writing: To What Extent is Poverty a Violation of Human Rights?	Extended Critical Writing: To What Extent are Adam and Eve Responsible for the Existence of Evil and Suffering?	Extended Critical Writing: How do Sanctity of Life and Quality of Life Influence Attitudes Towards Euthanasia?	Extended Critical Writing: How Similar are Religious and Non-religious Attitudes to Humanness?	Extended Critical Writing: How Important is Flourishing in God's Intention for Animals?	Extended Critical Writing: How Important is Stewardship in God's Covenant with Humankind?

	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses	End of topic knowledge test: multiple choice, short answer responses
Curriculum Thread	Beliefs and teachings, practices, ethics, faith and meaning, justice	Beliefs and teachings, sources of authority, ethics, faith and meaning	Beliefs and teachings, ethics, faith and meaning, ethics	Beliefs, ethics, philosophy, identity, ethics, sources of authority	Beliefs and teachings, ethics, faith and meaning, creation	Beliefs and teachings, ethics, creation, faith and meaning
Wider Reading	<p>'Christianity and Social Justice' - Tim S. Lane</p> <p>'Why are We Here? And Other Big Questions' - Alan Billings</p> <p>'Trash' - Andy Mulligan</p>	<p>'The Problem of Evil' - Peter Vardy</p> <p>'Where is God in All the Suffering?' - Terry Eagleton</p> <p>'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' - John Boyne</p>	<p>'Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction' - Tony Hope</p> <p>'Ethics: The Basics' - Shaun Pattinson</p> <p>'My Sister's Keeper' - Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>'Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence' - Max Tegmark</p> <p>'What Does it Mean to be Human?' - Michael Rosen</p> <p>'Boy in the Tower' - Polly Ho-Yen</p>	<p>'Animals Ethics: A Very Short Introduction' - Alasdair Cochrane</p> <p>'Christianity and the Environment' - Martin Palmer</p> <p>'Charlotte's Web' - E.B. White</p>	<p>'What is Environmental Ethics' - Ben Hale</p> <p>'Christianity and the Environment' - Martin Palmer</p> <p>'The Last Wild' - Piers Torday</p>