

GCSE

EDUQAS GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES ROUTE A CONTENT OVERVIEW



COMPONENT 1 FROM A CHRISTIAN (AND NON-RELIGIOUS) PERSPECTIVE

Suggested Outline Framework for Component 1:

Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

Component 1 constitutes 50% of the GCSE qualification. Therefore the scheme of learning proposed below is intended **only as a guide** based on one hour of RS per week over 35 hours in an academic year. The recommendation is that the **whole** of the course is **always** taught.

Teachers are advised to view the content of the links to assess the suitability of the content for their students prior to teaching in class.

THEME 1 – RELATIONSHIPS – 8 hours	THEME 2 - LIFE AND DEATH – 8 hours
THEME 3 – GOOD AND EVIL – 8 hours	THEME 4 – HUMAN RIGHTS – 8 hours
REVISION – 1 hour	MOCK EXAM AND REVIEW – 2 hours

Resources proposed here are suggestions only. It is also important to try and make connections *across* the specification where appropriate. For example, there may be opportunities to remind students of how issues of discrimination and equality from Theme 1 may impact on decisions of morality and conscience in Theme 3.

Assessment should be formative **and** engaging. Where possible, try and use the same or similar format to the final examination. Always share mark schemes with students. Ideally this should be towards the end of the unit so that they have had time to assimilate and engage in the work first.

Philosophy for Children sessions are ideally suited to introductory lessons on the philosophical themes, enabling students to formulate their own questions and consider the key concepts in depth, through discussion and debate as part of a community or enquiry.

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships (content from a Christian perspective)

Lesson	Area of Study	Specific Content	Concepts	Resources	Possible Learning Activities
1	Introduction/ Relationships	Christian beliefs and attitudes about the nature of marriage in the 21 st century	Cohabitation; commitment; roles; responsibilities ; cohabitation	Individual whiteboards; https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/what-does-family-mean-you http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=456	Brainstorm on relationships

2	Relationships	The nature and purpose of marriage and varying Christian attitudes towards separation	Responsibilities; commitment; cohabitation; adultery; divorce	Gospel of Mark 10:6-10; a good, general introduction to the Church of England's views on a range of issues: https://www.churchofengland.org/our-views.aspx ; Bible; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34185559 ;	Read through passage from Mark and make commentary/criticism with relevance to modern Britain; what is the difference between cohabitation and marriage? Interpretations of Matthew 19:8-9, Mark 10:9
3	Relationships within communities	How different inter-faith manage relationships in a diverse society	Responsibilities; roles	http://www.corrymeela.org ; http://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list-of-all-members ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCtE9FseoZo	Research the history of Corrymeela

4	Sexual relationships	Christian interpretations about the nature and purpose of sex	Commitment; responsibilities ; contraception	Powerpoint introducing Aquinas; PDF on Primary Precepts http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=686	Relating the Primary Precepts to the modern world and Natural Law; which ones are still applicable in the modern world? Explain your answer.
5	Sexual relationships	Diverse attitudes towards same sex relationships	Gender equality; roles; responsibilities	Interpretations of Leviticus 18:22, 20:3 and 1 Timothy 1:8-10; https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/no-sex-marriage ; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23489702	Name the different types of sexual relationships; Compare/contrast Old Testament and New Testaments; analyse passage in Genesis 5:1
6	Issues of equality	Diverse attitudes towards the roles of women and men	Roles; commitment; gender equality	Recent Catholic synods; https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/real-man	Watch the video and decide what a makes a real man; ask how this has changed over the years

7	Issues of equality	Teachings referring to these diverse attitudes and how they are interpreted differently	Roles; gender equality	The Vicar of Dibley first ever episode; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-30974547	
8	Review/assessment				

Theme 2 – Issues of Life and Death (content from Christian and non-religious perspectives)

Lesson	Area of Study	Specific Content	Concepts	Resources	Possible Learning Activities
1	Introduction /The world	Diverse Christian beliefs about Genesis 1 and 2	Evolution; sanctity of life	Individual whiteboards; literalist and non-literalist viewpoints; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA3E8wpBQ_I The Creation Museum in Kentucky - http://creationmuseum.org (Ken Ham has links to the Creation Museum)	Brainstorm on the story of Creation; read through Genesis 1 and 2; can the story be allegorical?
2	The world	The relationship between science and Christian views	Evolution; soul	Georges Lemaître – the Belgian cosmologist, mathematician and Catholic priest who worked on big bang theory before it was called that: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RL6ndOAQEeE ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuyYGVDCdN0 (This is the whole video of Hawking's 'Did God Create the Universe?') http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=681	Can we have a soul if we are just animals? An interesting idea could be to compare our attitudes to big-game hunting now and a century ago (very much time permitting)

3	The world	Christian and non-religious views on key topics	Environmental sustainability; quality of life	Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 8:6; https://humanism.org.uk/about/h4bw/	Interpretations and comparisons of biblical passages and humanist views
4	The origin and value of human life	Christian beliefs about the origin and sanctity of human life	Sanctity of life	Genesis 1 and 2 - compare the different versions of Creation and how important humans appear to be; focus on Genesis 1:31 and Jeremiah 1:5 http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=678	To what extent are human lives special?
5	The origin and value of human life	Non-religious views about evolution	Environmental sustainability; soul	Charles Darwin – his journey on the Beagle Richard Dawkins – in this link Dawkins debates with Ken Ham (it is long and other videos are available): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qnOlhLZTpg Also look at the work of Alfred Russel Wallace	Why did Darwin take so long to publish his findings? Compare and contrast Christian and non-religious viewpoints.

6	The origin and value of human life/introduction to beliefs about death and the afterlife	Christian attitudes to abortion and euthanasia	Abortion; euthanasia	http://www.dignityindying.org.uk/about-us/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/animals/rights/speciesism.shtml http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/christianethics/abortion_1.shtml	For and against arguments on abortion; why might Christians object to abortion?
7	Beliefs about death and the afterlife	Varying Christian beliefs on the afterlife	Afterlife	John 11:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44; https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/ http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=679	Interpret biblical passages; compare and contrast humanist practices and beliefs
8	Review/assessment				

Theme 3 – Issues of Good and Evil (content from a Christian perspective)

Lesson	Area of Study	Specific Content	Concepts	Resources	Possible Learning Activities
1	Introduction/ Crime and Punishment	Defining what is 'wrong'; relative and absolute morality, conscience, virtues and sin	Good/evil; morality; punishment; sin	Individual whiteboards; definitions game with matching for key concepts and their meanings; dictionaries; Genesis 3	Brainstorm on crime and punishment; ask the question 'What is wrong?'
2	Crime and Punishment	The causes of crime and aims of punishment: justice, retribution, deterrence and reformation; how we treat criminals and the work of prison chaplains/reformers	Forgiveness; justice; punishment; suffering	Matthew 5 The Beatitudes and Jesus' counter to an 'eye for an eye' (5:38); http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/current/current_5.aspx (an introduction to Elizabeth Fry); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfE70O97VbA - a video about Anders Breivik, the Norwegian neo-Nazi who sued over being in solitary confinement and won	Why do people commit crime?; can there ever be a reason for committing a crime?; should people like Anders Breivik have human rights?

3	Crime and Punishment	Varying Christian responses to the death penalty	Forgiveness; justice; punishment; sin	Bible: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:38-39, 43-47; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0wAA8RKzvc - devout Christian and journalist Peter Hitchens on the death penalty	Interpretations of biblical passages;
4	Crime and Punishment	Debate on the death penalty	Justice; morality; punishment; sin; suffering		Class debate on the death penalty
5	Forgiveness	Christian teachings about forgiveness and examples of forgiveness arising from personal beliefs	Forgiveness; free will	Interpretations of Matthew 6:14, 18:21-22, Matthew 6:14-15; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgQyBLWFDBI - the mother of murder victim Anthony Walker	Watch the video and write down how you think you would feel if this happened to a member of your family
6	Good, Evil and Suffering	The origin of evil	Free will	Original Sin (Genesis 3); Genesis 5:1; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWcgHmXV09g - Irenaeus and John Hick	Read Genesis 3 and watch the video; draw up a table listing similarities and differences

7	Good, Evil and Suffering	The problem of believing in God, free will and suffering	Free will	https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/problem-evil https://www.truetube.co.uk/interactive/problem-evil-quiz	Do the quiz; watch the video making notes about the different explanations
8	Review/assessment				

Theme 4 – Issues of Human Rights (content from a Christian perspective)

Lesson	Area of Study	Specific Content	Concepts	Resources	Possible Learning Activities
1	Introduction /Human Rights and Social Justice	Christian teachings toward the dignity of human life	Human rights; social justice;	Individual whiteboards; the UN Declaration of Human Rights; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1 (critical to modern understanding of all humans being equal from a Christian perspective)	Make a list of human rights; which do you think are the most important? Why?
2	Human Rights and Social Justice	Equality in modern Christianity; agape; conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country	Censorship; human rights; personal conviction; relative and absolute poverty; social justice	Matthew 5 The Beatitudes; Genesis 5:1; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejYL-7PxLGY Case study of a Christian – Oscar Romero http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=684	Read and analyse the biblical passages and state why they are so important to many Christians.

3	Human Rights and Social Justice	Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism	Censorship; discrimination; extremism; prejudice	http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/03/erdogan-turkish-president-lese-majesty-laws-german-dutch-comedians ; http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/harry-potter/11638508/J.K.-Rowling-slams-Westboro-Baptist-Church-over-threat-to-picket-wizards-gay-wedding.html ; Matthew 22:15-22 – Jesus is asked his opinion and gives it regardless of the consequences; Genesis 5:1 – if we are all created in God’s image does that mean all our opinions are equally valid?; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebL1oCy6tgY (hard hitting interview with the surviving cartoonist from Charlie Hebdo); http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2424983/Christian-B-B-owners-refused-gay-couple-close-business.html ; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-32065233 ; http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/23/gay-marriage-ireland-yes-vote ; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14261921 ; http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/po	Read the articles and explain how each of the key concepts applies to either or both. Give reasons.
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4	Prejudice and discrimination	Christian attitudes to prejudice and discrimination	Discrimination; human rights; personal conviction; prejudice; social justice	Galatians 3:27-29; Genesis 5:1; the Montgomery Bus Boycott: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE6Yvy--5aw	Storyboard of the Bus Boycott; relate biblical teachings to the boycott
5	Prejudice and discrimination	Christian beliefs regarding racial prejudice and discrimination	Discrimination; extremism; human rights; personal conviction; social justice	Galatians 3:27-29; Genesis 5:1; Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan); http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/15/britains-most-racist-election-smethwick-50-years-on - a look at Britain at the time of Martin Luther King; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRuZF7LMXcc - full movie of Martin Luther King's predecessor at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=682	Do you thin Britain has changed for the better? Answer with reference to the biblical passages.

6	Issues of wealth and poverty	Is it right to acquire wealth?	Relative and absolute poverty; social justice	Luke 16:19-30 http://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=683	What does this passage tell us about Jesus' attitude to wealth?
7	Issues of wealth and poverty	Case study: Christian Aid	Human rights; relative and absolute poverty; social justice	Christian Aid website	Make a spider diagram of what Christian Aid does and link it to Christian teachings.
8	Review/assessment				