



AQA Jewish Practices

Learning about this topic is important because it provides a deeper understanding of Judaism, one of the world's oldest and most influential religions. By exploring its central teachings, and practices, you will gain insight into how Jewish faith has shaped the lives of individuals and communities throughout history and continues to guide Jewish people today. Studying Judaism also helps you understand the wider impact that religious practices can have on individuals, communities, and societies. This knowledge encourages respect, tolerance, and appreciation of religious diversity, while developing an awareness of the significant role that faith can play in shaping values, identity, and decision-making.

This builds on: Christian Beliefs

This leads to: Jewish Practices

We will learn:

- The synagogue
- Public acts of worship
- Diet and Kosher
- Prayer
- Shema and Amidah
- Rituals and ceremonies
- Shabbat
- Festivals

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Knowledge and understanding of Jewish practices and their origin
- Explanation and evaluation to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced, and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- Knowledge and understanding of Jewish celebration and rituals
- Understanding of sacred sources to support reasons
- Explanation and ability to reflect on values, beliefs and attitudes in the light new study and will contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Bimah	Mitzvot
Ark	Shema
Bar Mitzvah	Treifah
Mezuzah	Talmud
Ner Tamid	Shiva
Pesach	Messianic Age
Yom Kippur	Pikuach Nefesh
Tenakh	Rosh Hashanah
	Shabbat

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading:

That Jewish Thing - Amber Crewe

Jews Don't Count: - David Baddiel

A 'daughter' Kaddish – my year of grief, devotion and healing - Sarah Birnback

Watch:

Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over

The Prince of Egypt



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of diverse ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are: A01 Knowledge and understanding questions – a reason or a way with a development and A02 evaluation questions in response to a stimulus quote.



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Jewish Practices – Key Terms

The Amidah	The 'standing prayer'. Recited as part of public acts of worship in the synagogue.
Aron hakodesh (ark)	The holiest part of the synagogue containing the Torah scrolls.
Bar Mitzvah	Coming of age ceremony of boys aged 13. Literally "Son of the Commandment".
Bat Mitzvah	Coming of age ceremony for girls aged 12. "Daughter of Commandment".
Bimah	The reading platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read.
Brit Milah	The religious rite of circumcision, usually performed eight days after a boy's birth.
Divine presence (Shekhinah)	Belief that God is beyond human understanding but his presence may be experienced/known.
Kosher	Food that is 'clean' and that meets the requirements of the dietary laws.
Mitzvot	Mitzvot (singular is 'mitzvah') are the 613 Jewish commandments/rules found in the Tenakh.
Mourning rituals	Refers to set practices that are carried out by Jews as a way of grieving for loved ones who have died.
Ner tamid (ever-burning light)	A feature of the synagogue; a light that is above and in front of the aron hakodesh, which burns constantly as a symbol of God's presence.
Pesach	Festival that celebrates the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, often called Passover.
Rosh Hashanah	Festival celebrating the Jewish New Year. It is the start of the ten day period of High Holy Days that culminates in Yom Kippur.
Shabbat	The Sabbath/holy day of the week; beginning at sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
Talmud (oral law)	Source of authority; the law believed by Orthodox Jews to have been given to Moses but was not written down for many centuries, it was then expanded with rabbinic explanation/commentaries.
Tenakh (written law)	Holy book/source of authority; the Jewish scriptures. Includes into three parts: Torah (Law), Nevi'im (prophets) and Ketuvim (writings).
Trefah	Forbidden food. It does not fulfil the Jewish dietary laws/is not kosher.
Yom Kippur	The Day of Atonement – a day of repentance and fasting on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah. The holiest day of the Jewish year.



AQA Religion and Life

Learning about this topic is important because you are able to study religious teachings, as well as religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to important issues about religion and life and their impact on the modern world. You will explore these issues with reference to Christianity, the main religious tradition in Britain, and examine how Christian beliefs influence attitudes, values and decision-making. You will also develop an awareness of contrasting viewpoints within contemporary British society, enabling you to evaluate different perspectives and gain a deeper understanding of the role religion plays in addressing moral and ethical issues

This builds on: Y9 Relationships and Creation

This leads to: Themes

We will learn:

- Origins of universe
- Christian beliefs about the origins of life
- Scientific responses to the world
- Value of the world and stewardship
- Abuse of the environment
- Pollution
- Abuse of animals
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Death and the afterlife

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Critical Thinking – Evaluate arguments about crime, punishment and justice.
- Christian Understanding – Apply Christian teachings to moral issues.
- Comparing Perspectives – Consider different religious and societal viewpoints.
- Ethical Reasoning – Form and justify balanced judgements.
- Empathy and Respect – Understand and appreciate diverse beliefs.
- Communication – Discuss and debate moral issues effectively.
- Evidence Analysis – Use religious teachings and examples to support ideas.
- Social Awareness – Explore religion's role in modern society.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Natural Resources Creation
Conservation Environment Stewardship
Euthanasia Abortion Assisted suicide
Immortality of the soul Non-voluntary euthanasia

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading:

They Both Die at the End - Adam Silvera (Author)

Shaking Hands with Death - Terry Pratchett

Watch: Me Before you, Short Stay in Switzerland



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of diverse ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are: A01 Knowledge and understanding questions (2,4,5 marks) – a reason or a way with a development and A02 evaluation questions in response to a stimulus quote.



GCSE Religious Studies Themes – Crime and Punishment.



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Learning about this topic is important because it helps you understand religious teachings, as well as religious, philosophical and ethical arguments about crime, justice and the treatment of offenders. You will explore issues such as the causes of crime, different types of punishment, forgiveness, suffering, and the death penalty. These topics are studied through Christianity, the main religion in Britain, and you will learn how Christian beliefs influence people's attitudes, values and decisions about crime and justice. You will also consider different viewpoints in modern British society, helping you compare and evaluate a range of perspectives and develop a deeper understanding of how religion contributes to debates about moral and ethical issues.

This builds on: GCSE RS Themes

This leads to: Religion and Life

We will learn:

- Christian Teachings on Crime and Punishment
- Causes of Crime: Poverty and upbringing, mental health problems and addiction, greed and hate, opposition to unjust laws
- Types of Crime: hate crimes, theft, murder
- Good and Evil Intentions and Actions
- Can Causing Suffering Ever Be Justified?
- Aims of Punishment: retribution, deterrence, reformation
- Death Penalty
- Religious Views on Forgiveness
- Treatment of Criminals, prison, corporal punishment, community service
- Religious and Ethical Perspectives on Justice

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Knowledge and understanding of worldviews
- Construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- Explanation and evaluation to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating depth and breadth of the subject
- Knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Explanation and ability to reflect on values, beliefs and attitudes in the light new study and will contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Conscience Punishment Justice Forgiveness Retribution
Deterrence Reformation Death Penalty sanctity of life

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading : Holes -Louis Sachar
Hacker - Malorie Blackman
Watching: Trevor McDonald Inside Death Row
The Life of David Gale



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

Class discussion and presentation of ideas. Attentive attitude in all lessons

An AO2 evaluation written tasks, that uses examples and reaches a justified conclusion at the end of the unit of work.



AQA Jewish Beliefs

Learning about this topic is important because it allows you to study Judaism and explore its central beliefs, teachings and practices. You will then be able to understand how these beliefs have shaped the lives of Jewish people throughout history and continue to influence and guide Jewish communities today. It also helps you recognise the impact that religious beliefs and practices can have on individuals, communities and wider society. This knowledge will equip you to be more tolerant, respectful and supportive of people of different faiths, while developing a deeper understanding of the role religion plays in shaping identity, values and society.

This builds on: Themes

This leads to: Jewish Practices

We will learn:

- The nature of God: as one; creator; as judge and law giver
- God as loving and merciful
- Shekhinah (divine presence)
- Life after death, judgement and resurrection
- The nature and role of Messiah (different views on the role and importance of the Messiah)
- Covenant with Abraham and the promised land
- Covenant at Sinai and Moses
- Key moral principles
- The importance of the sanctity of human life (Pikuach Nefesh)
- Free will and the Mitzvot and the differences in its importance

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Knowledge and understanding of Jewish beliefs and tradition
- Explanation and evaluation to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced, and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- Knowledge and understanding of Jewish tradition
- Understanding of sacred sources to support reasons
- Explanation and ability to reflect on values, beliefs and attitudes in the light new study and will contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Almighty
Shekhinah
Torah
The Messiah
Messianic Age
Covenant

Covenant at Sinai
The Decalogue
Pikuach Nefesh
Mitzvot
Free will
Resurrection

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading:

Mazel Tov: the story of my extraordinary friendship with an Orthodox Jewish family – J.S. Margot
That Jewish Thing - Amber Crewe
The Thinking Jewish Teenager's Guide to Life - Akiva Tatz

Watch:

Being Jewish
Strictly Kosher



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