



Year 9 Evil and Suffering

Learning about this topic is important because it helps to explore religious, philosophical and ethical questions about why suffering exists and how people respond to it. You will investigate topics such as the causes of suffering and evil, Christian responses to suffering, the story of Job, prayer and unanswered prayer, and Jewish and Islamic beliefs about suffering. You will also consider whether suffering can ever have a positive purpose and what can be done to reduce it. Through these topics, you will develop an understanding of how religious beliefs influence attitudes, values and decision-making, while evaluating different viewpoints in contemporary society.

This builds on: Year 8 Rites of Passage, Year 7 Leaders.

This leads to: Creation and Life

We will learn:

- What is suffering?
- Is suffering part of human nature?
- Who is responsible for evil?
- Christian responses to suffering
- Job, prayer and unanswered prayer
- Suffering in Judaism and Islam
- Can suffering ever be good? What can be done about it?

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Explaining religious beliefs and teachings.
- Analysing different viewpoints on suffering and evil.
- Evaluating arguments and reaching justified conclusions.
- Using evidence from religious sources to support ideas.
- Comparing Christian, Jewish and Islamic perspectives.
- Applying religious teachings to real-life issues.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Suffering Evil Theodicy Free will Prayer
Omnipotent Omnibenevolent Omniscient Job
Sin Forgiveness Justice Compassion Salvation

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading: *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio or *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
You Are Awesome by Matthew Syed, *Factfulness* (Young Readers Edition) by Hans Rosling
Watch: *The Bible Project: Job* (YouTube)
The Pursuit of Happiness (2006)



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, class discussions and questioning, retrieval quizzes and vocabulary tests, written AT1 and AT2 questions, homework and independent research tasks, Peer and self-assessment activities. The key pieces of work in this topic are: AT1 Knowledge and understanding questions – a reason or a way with a development and AT2 evaluation questions in response to a stimulus quote.



Year 9 Creation and Life

Learning about this topic is important because it helps you explore questions about the origins of the universe and human life. You will examine Christian beliefs about creation, scientific explanations, and debates about the value of life and the environment. You will also consider human responsibility for the world, including responses to climate change. Through these topics, you will develop your understanding of different beliefs and viewpoints, and how they influence attitudes and decisions in society.

This builds on: Year 8 Philosophy, Y7 leaders, Y9 Evil and suffering

This leads to: Relationships and family

We will learn:

- Where did the universe come from?
- How should Christians interpret Genesis?
- Creation, chance or something else?
- Where does human life come from?
- Why is the world valuable?
- Stewardship or dominion?
- Climate change and religious responses
- What gives human life and the universe value?

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Explaining Christian beliefs and teachings about creation and the origins of life.
- Interpreting and analysing religious texts, including the Genesis creation accounts.
- Comparing religious and scientific explanations for the origins of the universe and human life.
- Using religious teachings and evidence to support arguments.
- Analysing different viewpoints on creation, evolution and environmental issues.
- Evaluating ethical and philosophical questions about the value of life and the universe.
- Constructing balanced arguments and reaching justified conclusions.
- Applying religious beliefs to contemporary issues such as climate change and conservation.
- Understanding and using specialist Religious Studies vocabulary accurately.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Creation Evolution Stewardship Dominion
Environment Conservation Sanctity of life
Creationist Theist Atheist
Responsibility Sustainability

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading: The Last Bear by Hannah Gold
The Explorer by Katherine Rundell
A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Watch: Wall-E (2008), Avatar (2009), The Lorax (2012), Moana (2016)
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019)



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Year 9 Religion and Relationships

Learning about this topic is important because it helps you explore religious, philosophical and ethical questions about relationships, sexuality, marriage and family life. You will examine different views on topics such as healthy relationships, sex, marriage, contraception, same-sex relationships, divorce and remarriage. Through these issues, you will develop an understanding of how religious beliefs influence attitudes and decisions, while considering different viewpoints in contemporary society and evaluating important moral and ethical debates.

This builds on: Year 8 Philosophy, Y7 leaders, Y9 Evil and suffering, Y9 Religion and Life

This leads to: GCSE course, Global perspectives

We will learn:

- What makes a healthy relationship?
- What is human sexuality?
- Should sex only occur within marriage?
- Why do people get married?
- Family planning and contraception
- Same-sex relationships and marriage
- Divorce and remarriage
- How should society balance freedom, commitment and responsibility?

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Explaining Christian beliefs and teachings about relationships, marriage and family life.
- Interpreting and applying religious teachings to contemporary issues.
- Comparing different religious and non-religious viewpoints.
- Analysing arguments about relationships, sexuality and family life.
- Evaluating ethical issues and reaching justified conclusions.
- Using evidence from religious sources to support ideas.
- Respectfully discussing sensitive and controversial topics.



Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Commitment Marriage Sexuality Contraception
Family planning Cohabitation Same-sex marriage
Divorce Remarriage Fidelity Adultery
Equality Respect Sanctity of marriage Sacrament

You could learn more about this topic by:

Reading: Loveless by Alice Oseman, The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon, If I Stay by Gayle Forman, Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Watch: Heartstopper (Netflix) Love, Simon (2018) Atypical (Netflix) The Parent Trap (1998)

Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, class discussions and questioning, retrieval quizzes and vocabulary tests, written AT1 and AT2 questions, homework and independent research tasks, Peer and self-assessment activities. The key pieces of work in this topic are: AT1 Knowledge and understanding questions – a reason or a way with a development and AT2 evaluation questions in response to a stimulus quote.