



Topic Overview
 Faculty/Subject: RS
 Year Group: 9
 Topic: **What is faith?**
The Existence of God & Revelation



What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

Belief in God is influenced by both **faith and reason** – including arguments for and against God’s existence.

People interpret **revelation** and **religious experiences** differently, leading to different conclusions about God.

The natural world can lead people to believe in God, but it can also raise doubts (e.g. the problem of evil and suffering).

Religious belief is shaped by personal experience, sacred texts, and philosophical reasoning.

Understanding different views (religious and atheist) helps in forming reasoned and balanced opinions.

What other key concepts, knowledge and skills will you learn in this topic?

Knowledge: Key arguments for God’s existence:

- First Cause (Cosmological Argument)
- Design (Teleological Argument)
- Argument from miracles and religious experience

Key arguments against God’s existence:

- Science as an alternative explanation for the universe
- The Problem of Evil and Suffering
- Different types of **revelation** (e.g., visions, scripture) and how they are interpreted by believers.

Skills:

- Analyse philosophical and religious arguments using evidence and reasoning
- Evaluate whether religious experiences can be trusted
- Construct well-reasoned arguments using religious teachings, scripture, and logical examples
- Recognise and explore differing perspectives (theist, agnostic, atheist)

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

Foundational knowledge of Christian beliefs from Key Stage 3 (e.g., the life of Jesus, parables, the Bible).

Prior understanding of key religious language and the role of worship, community, and sacred texts.

Knowledge of basic philosophical and ethical questions about life, death, God, and suffering.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

It is the final topic this year. Some elements of it have been covered in previous years. We have looked at the existence of God in year 7 & different scriptures in year 8.

Assessment:

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

This is the last topic of the year so will be incorporated into the end of year exam

What will the success criteria be?

- Can clearly explain philosophical arguments and religious responses
- Can offer strengths and weaknesses of these arguments
- Uses religious teachings (e.g., quotes from sacred texts) to support points
- Can evaluate statements with balance and a justified conclusion
- Uses key terminology accurately

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?

Theist	Omniscient
Atheist	Omnibenevolent
Agnostic	First Cause Argument
Revelation	Miracle
Special Revelation	Vision
General Revelation	Scripture
Design Argument	Immanent
Problem of Evil	Transcendent
Omnipotent	

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

- Lesson 1.** Intro lesson
- Lesson 2.** The Big Bang & Evolution
- Lesson 3.** Design & First Cause Argument
- Lesson 4.** Religion & Science
- Lesson 5.** The Argument from Miracles
- Lesson 6.** Are Science & Religion Compatible?
- Lesson 7.** The Problem of Evil
- Lesson 8.** Responses to the Problem of Evil
- Lesson 9.** Revelation - Special & General
- Lesson 10.** Revision
- Lesson 11.** Revision

