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| Subject: RE Year 8 Curriculum Map 2025-2026 | | | |
| Terms | **Topics covered** and **core knowledge and skills** | Links to careers | Links to the Knowledge organiser and other additional resources |
| Half term 1 | **Who was Jesus?**  **Lesson 1: The World of Jesus – Empire and Expectation**  **Students explore the Greco-Roman world and Second Temple Judaism to understand the political, cultural, and religious landscape into which Jesus was born.**  **Lesson 2: Birth and Incarnation – A Theological Revolution**  **Pupils examine the historical context of Jesus’ birth alongside Christian beliefs about the incarnation and messianic expectation.**  **Lesson 3: Radical Encounters – The Woman at the Well**  **Through Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman, students analyse how his message challenged deep-rooted social, religious, and gender boundaries.**  **Lesson 4: Healing and Authority – The Paralysed Man**  **Focusing on the healing of the paralytic, students explore how Jesus’ actions revealed his authority to forgive sins and provoked controversy among religious leaders.**  **Lesson 5: Was Jesus' Message Radical?**  **Students consider how Jesus’ teachings and behaviour disrupted expectations, subverted religious norms, and led to mounting opposition from political and religious authorities.**  **Lesson 6: From Palm Sunday to the Cross**  **This lesson traces Jesus’ final days, including his triumphal entry, temple actions, arrest, trial, and crucifixion, revealing the reasons behind his execution.**  **Lesson 7: The Resurrection – History or Faith?**  **Students investigate the resurrection with a historical lens, evaluating Gospel accounts and scholarly arguments to consider its credibility as a historical event.** | <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/theology-and-religious-studies> | [Knowledge\_Organiser\_Search\_for\_the\_Historical\_Jesus.docx](https://ormistonacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OMaA_Humanities/Shared%20Documents/Philosophy,%20Relgion%20and%20Ethics%20(PRE)/Kowledge%20Organisers/Knowlege%20organisers%20RE/Year%208/Knowledge_Organiser_Search_for_the_Historical_Jesus.docx?d=w0a67728918ea495ab304144bc98dc6d3&csf=1&web=1&e=OncqzP) |
| Half term 2 | **1. Halloween: From Harvest to Horror**  **Pupils will explore the ancient origins of Halloween and how it has evolved into a modern celebration.**  **2. Purim: Courage and Celebration**  **Pupils will learn the story of Esther and how Jewish people celebrate Purim through joy, charity, and remembrance.**  **3. Holi: The Festival of Colours and Community**  **Pupils will discover the Hindu festival of Holi, its myths, meanings, and how it celebrates the triumph of good over evil.**  **4. Hanukkah: Light in the Darkness**  **Pupils will examine the historical events behind Hanukkah and how Jews celebrate through ritual, symbolism, and resilience.**  **5. Diwali: Victory of Light Over Darkness**  **Pupils will explore the Hindu festival of Diwali, including its religious stories, traditions, and symbolism of light.**  **6. Passover: Freedom and Faith**  **Pupils will understand the story of the Exodus and how Jews remember it today through rituals like the Seder meal.**  **7. Eid: A Festival of Sacrifice and Gratitude**  **Pupils will learn about the Muslim festivals of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, their meanings, and how they are celebrated around the world.** | <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/theology-and-religious-studies> | [Festivals Ko.docx](https://ormistonacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OMaA_Humanities/Shared%20Documents/Philosophy,%20Relgion%20and%20Ethics%20(PRE)/Year%208/Archive/Term%205%20-%20Religious%20Festivals/Festivals/Festivals%20Ko.docx?d=wfaf677e9bb9a4efdb26d6394b434302c&csf=1&web=1&e=a0BUAA) |
| Term 3 and 4 | What did justice mean to Maria Gomez?  To understand the political injustice occurring in El Salvador in the 20th century.  To explore the work of Maria Gomez and her ultimate Martyrdom.  What did Justice mean to Desmond Tutu?  To understand the political injustice of Apartheid.  To explore how Tutu fought against racial injustice.  What did Justice mean to Jesus?  To explore the story of the Good Samaritan and what it teaches Christians about Justice.  What did Justice mean to Martin Luther King Jr.?  To explore the life and work of MLK  What did Justice mean to Ghandi?  To understand ho Ghandi fought against social injustice  What did Justice mean to Oscar Romero?  To explore how Oscar Romero fought for Justice  Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?  To explore the life and work of Bonhoeffer  To evaluate whether violence is ever justified  What did Justice mean to William Wilberforce?  To explore how Wilberforce fought against injustice  What did justice mean to mother Teresa?  To explore the life of Mother Teresa and her work with the poor in India  What did justice mean to William Booth?  To understand how William booth fought for social justice in Victorian England. | <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/theology-and-religious-studies> | <https://ormistonacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OMaA_Humanities/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B615E1A01-CE8A-4ED4-8135-0FEE747BB92C%7D&file=Knowledge%20Organizer%20-%20Justice.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true> |
| Term 5 | William James and Religious Experience  Explore James’ four criteria for identifying mystical or religious experiences.  The Conversion of Saul  Examine Saul’s dramatic encounter on the road to Damascus and its impact.  St Bernadette and Lourdes  Explore the visions of Bernadette Soubirous and their significance for Catholic belief.  The Effects of Religious Experience  Investigate how religious experiences can change lives and inspire faith or action.  Brahman and Atman  Understand Hindu concepts of ultimate reality and the inner self in mystical experience.  Religious Experience and Atheism  Consider atheist explanations and critiques of religious experiences. | <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/theology-and-religious-studies> | [Religious Experience Knowledge Organiser.docx](https://ormistonacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/OMaA_Humanities/EdJM9A85nZJGsds323din3kBDkr_e1GW9_u_iYe2aAvAIg?e=hSxOcL) |
| Term 6 | Christian Views on Creation  Explore Christian beliefs about how the world began and humanity’s place within it.  Hindu Theories of Creation  Examine Hindu accounts of the universe’s origins and cyclical nature.  Stewardship and Dominion  Investigate religious ideas about human responsibility and power over the natural world.  Hindu Views on the Environment  Understand how Hindu beliefs shape attitudes toward nature and environmental care.  Is Animal Cruelty Ever Justified?  Debate whether harming animals can ever be morally acceptable.  Religious Views on Animal Rights  Explore how different religions view the treatment and rights of animals. | <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/theology-and-religious-studies> | [Global Issues KO.doc](https://ormistonacademiestrust.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/OMaA_Humanities/EejCZybmq-tUNQyUOCrFWxwBQsguSA9Jc6V26lQXdUk1Rg?e=rCNrIm) |
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