

Curriculum Overview for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics - Year 9

When?	What?	Why?	How?
Autumn Half Term 1	Should the UK bring back the death penalty?	Crime and punishment is both a social and moral issue, as well as ethical. This unit explores the issues that surround crime and punishment, which is also one of our themes in GCSE RPE.	A series of lessons where our students will explore the causes of crime, the aims and reasons for punishment, different forms of punishments including debate on capital punishment.
Autumn Half Term 2	Is the 'Sanctity of Life' an outdated concept?	This unit deals with the challenging concept of the importance of life by looking at the euthanasia debate and the issues of stem cell research, both of which are current affairs.	These lessons that use case studies to help our students explore the sensitive areas of the topic as well as multiple religious perspectives on euthanasia and stem cell research.
Spring Half Term 1	If God is male, is male God? A study of sexism in religion	This unit explores the controversial issue of sexism within Christianity by looking at male centric language and the implications of that, as well counter arguments	A series of lessons where our students will examine the arguments by Mary Daly that Christianity is beyond reform and those of Rosemary Radford Ruether who sees the figure of Jesus as an egalitarian as well the practices of the modern Churches.
Spring Half Term 2	Are religious values simply human values?	This unit specifically deals with exploring humanism and how people can hold values and beliefs without a 'god' figure.	In these lessons our students will look at key concepts such as the meaning of life, ethical values, celebrations and world views from a Humanist perspective.
Summer Half Term 1	Should we eat the pig that wants to be eaten? RPE in C21st	As this unit will be our traditional end point, we are giving time to revisit some of the key areas we have taught and applying them to C21st. The unit takes its name from Julian Baggini's 'The pig that wants to be eaten as 99 other thought experiments' giving each lesson a short story to familiarise themselves with these topics.	In these lessons our students will revisit and discuss topics such as whether we would opt for a fair society if we could, what is personal identity, whether anonymity makes people act differently and whether we should utilise animals for human needs.
Summer Half Term 2	What is beauty?	As our final unit in 2022, we will ask the question of ascetics, what makes things 'beautiful' as perceptions of beauty have been important throughout history, but those perceptions have changed. It also allows us to address ethical issues with modern 'standards' of beauty and how they are achieved.	A series of lessons that discuss ascetics that finish with a task based on the 'Spirited Arts' competition.