

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PERSONALISED LEARNING CHECKLIST

	Red	Amber	Green	Revised Tick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Area of Study: Rights and Responsibilities				
Why some Christians use only the Bible as basis for making moral decisions (it contains 10 commandments, teachings of Jesus, the word of God, advice from leaders of the early church)				
The authority of the Church for Christians and why some use only the Church's teachings as a basis for making moral decisions (Church is the body of Christ, it's a community of believers in God, all leaders have had training and have studied the bible, Church teachings are inspired by God)				
The role of conscience & why some Christians believe conscience is the most important guide when making moral decisions (conscience is given by God so that we could use free will to make our own decisions on what is the right or wrong things to do)				
Situation ethics & why some Christians use only Situation Ethics as a guide when making moral decisions (Agape, Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you', it follows the 'Golden Rule' – 'do to others what you would have them do to you')				
Human rights in the UK (what are human rights? – the Human Rights act, are human rights always right e.g. Terrorism suspects being detained without proof?)				
Why human rights are important for Christians (upheld by 10 C's - the Decalogue, all humans are created in the image of God, God loves everyone equally)				
Why it is important to take part in democratic and electoral processes (politics affects everyone in the UK, laws, taxes etc are controlled by government, taking part gets your voice heard and ensures corrupt people/policies do not get put in place)				
Christian teachings on moral duties and responsibilities: the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12), the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25: 31-46), the 10 commandments (these stories teach Christians how they should behave – make sure you know them!)				
The nature of genetic engineering, including cloning (gene therapy, designer babies, organ cloning, GM crops)				

<p>Different Christian attitudes to genetic engineering and cloning and reasons for them (most loving thing to do (agape) is to help or heal people vs. Interfering with God’s plan)</p>				
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<p>Area of Study: Environmental and Medical Issues</p>				
<p>The causes of global warming, pollution, natural resources (what is GW/pollution and what causes them. Different examples of renewable and non-renewable resources e.g. oil and coal, what scientists think about the environment and what we can do as individuals)</p>				
<p>Christian teachings on stewardship and attitudes to the environment (what God tells them about how to treat the planet - He gave people dominion over it, why and how they can practically save the environment)</p>				
<p>Muslim teachings on stewardship and attitudes to the environment (what the Qu`ran says about Muslim’s responsibility to the planet – not wasting anything , pass onto the next generation, be grateful for Allah’s gift, why and how they can practically save the environment)</p>				
<p>Medical treatment for infertility (different types of fertility treatment eg surrogacy, IVF, artificial insemination, arguments for and against fertility treatment, why some treatments are controversial)</p>				
<p>Christian attitudes to medical treatment for infertility (why some Christians are for it/against it, what the Bible says – changing God’s plan vs. Love thy neighbour (Agape) and why)</p>				
<p>Muslim attitudes to medical treatment for infertility (why some Muslims are for/against it, which types of treatment the Qu`ran allows (no donors) and why (brings a third person in to the marriage), quotes to support points made)</p>				

Transplant surgery (what it is and the rules around how you can do it, arguments for & against it)				
Christian attitudes to transplant surgery (why some Christians are for/against it – love thy neighbour vs. Changing God’s plan, agape)				
Muslim attitudes to transplant surgery (why some Muslim are for/against it – changing Allah’s plan vs. Saving a life being priority, body should not be violated after death, “whoever, saves the life of one person it would be as if he saved the whole of mankind” (Surah 5))				
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Area of Study: Crime and Punishment				
The need for law and justice (how UK laws are made, laws are important)				
Theories of punishment and the arguments for and against them (4 aims of punishment - deterrence, retribution, protection, reform)				
Why justice is important for Christians (God is a just God, Jesus example is to be fair, God judged Adam after eating the apple, organisations which work for justice – Christian Aid, CAFOD)				
Why justice is important for Muslims (Quran teaches that God wants everyone to be fair and just towards each other, Shariah law requires justice for everyone, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) acted with justice; Organisations working for justice – Islamic relief, Muslim aid)				
The nature of capital punishment and non-religious arguments about capital punishment (execution=taking of life; arguments for and against- importance of life vs. importance of justice)				

<p>Different attitudes towards capital punishment among Christians and reasons for them (Sanctity of Life, only God can judge, only God can take a life, Christianity teaches love and forgiveness vs. OT teaches capital punishment should be used for some criminals, Paul said you should accept laws of the country you're staying in, including death penalty, Jesus never taught death penalty was wrong)</p>				
<p>Different attitudes to capital punishment for Muslims</p> <p>(Quran and Shariah law says that death penalty can be used for some crimes, Muhammad (pbuh) sentenced people to death for murder when he ruled Medina vs. Quran says CP should be considered – doesn't have to be used, Shariah is not applied fairly in some countries)</p>				
<p>Laws on drugs and alcohol and the reasons for them (legal and illegal drugs, alcohol and age restrictions)</p>				
<p>Social and health problems caused by drugs and alcohol (violence, debt, crime, disorderly behaviour, homelessness, mental illness, relationship breakdowns, serious illness, overdose, unemployment)</p>				
<p>Different attitudes to drugs and alcohol in Christianity and the reason for them (creates social disorder, takes focus from God, can cause sinful behaviour vs. Jesus turned water into wine, Holy Communion is performed with wine, Bible does not forbid alcohol)</p>				
<p>Attitudes towards drugs and alcohol in Islam (Quran teaches we should not abuse our bodies, alcohol/drugs are haram (forbidden)' Muhammad (pbuh) taught about the dangers of using them, takes focus from God, could lead to sinful behaviour)</p>				
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Area of Study: Peace and Conflict				
Why do Wars occur (main causes of war e.g. self defence, fear dictators, long standing racial/ethnic hatred, protection of people from exploitation etc , give an example of a current/recent conflict e.g. Iraq, WW2)				
The role of the United Nations and World peace (what it is , how they try and achieve peace , which countries are involved and situations they have been involved in e.g UN in Darfur)				
Religious organisations and peace (describe the work of both a Christian and Muslim charity (Pax Christi/Islamic Relief, how they help and why)				
The Just War Theory (the 5 key points: to bring peace, only reasonable force, started by proper authority, civilians not to be targeted, last resort)				
Christian attitudes to war (quotes for & against war, pacifism - which Christians believe it & why, absolute & relative pacifism, Jesus' views on peace)				
Muslim attitudes to war (greater (personal struggle) & lesser (holy war) jihad, examples of each, what different Muslims think about going to war and why				
Christian attitudes to bullying (examples of bullying – lying about someone, verbal abuse, physical bullying etc, how it affects people's lives, why Christians don't agree with bullying, examples of organisations trying to stop bullying – Samaritans, Childline, Kidscape)				
Muslim attitudes to bullying (why Muslims don't agree with bullying, judgement on the last day, violence without just cause is wrong)				
Religious Conflict within families (what causes general family conflict – money , divorce , rivalry between brothers and sisters, what can cause religious conflict – lifestyle choices – sexuality , differing religion, drink/drugs etc)				
Christian teachings on forgiveness and reconciliation (what it is, examples of, who does it – Victoria Climbié's parents,				

Anthony Walker's parents why they do it – to follow Jesus' example)				
Muslim teachings on forgiveness and reconciliation (Allah forgives people so should Muslims, other teachings of the Prophet, what will happen if Muslims don't forgive others, asking for forgiveness on Hajj at Mt Arafat)				
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Area of Study: Community Cohesion				
Government action to promote community cohesion (Equality Act 2006, Human Rights Act 1998, shared festivals/community events)				
Changing attitudes to the roles of women (gender roles) (from WW1 to present day, sexism, increase in women with careers, equality in workplace)				
Christian attitudes to the equal role of women and the reasons for them (Jesus disciples being male, appearing to Mary when He rose from the dead, vicars/priests are male)				
Muslim attitudes to the equal role of women and the reasons for them (Traditional and modern views, equal but different, clothing, worship)				
The UK as a multi-ethnic society (immigration, emigration, European union)				
Why Christians should promote racial harmony (story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus example of treating people equally, Martin Luther King)				

Why Muslims should promote racial harmony (Malcolm X, teachings of Ummah, messages from the Qur'an)				
The UK as a multi-faith society (different cultures and backgrounds, more interesting communities, more tolerant societies)				
Different Christian attitudes to other religions and the reasons for them (exclusive, inclusive, pluralist)				
Issues raised by multi-faith society (challenged to be more understanding, some faiths feel pushed out, multi-faith marriage)				
Ways in which religions work to promote community cohesion (shared festivals, faith schools, Interfaith Network UK)				
How an issue from this topic has been covered in TV/film/magazine and whether it was fair to religious people and their beliefs. (documentaries, films soaps and comedies e.g Vicar of Dibley, Yasmin)				
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Area of Study: Matters of Life and Death				
Why Christians believe in life after death and how those beliefs affect their lives (Jesus rose from the dead, bible talks of afterlife, church teaches about afterlife, gives life meaning and purpose)				
Why Muslims believe in life after death (belief in akhiraah, al'jannah, jahannam, belief in the day of judgment, following Shariah Law and teachings in Islam will lead to a reward)				
Non-religious reasons for believing in life after death (near death experiences, ghosts, mediums, evidence of reincarnation)				

Why some people do not believe in life after death (death is the end, no evidence, bible is just stories, why believe things that are not scientific)				
What abortion is and the laws concerning it (1967 Abortion act, allowed up to 24 th week if two doctors agree, for health reasons, after 24 th week if risk to woman's life or child badly handicapped)				
Arguments for and against abortion (For: result of rape, woman's right to choose, lesser of two evils if child is severely handicapped: Against: life is special, child has right to live, disabled children have equal right to life)				
Different Christian attitudes to abortion and the reasons them (Catholic – against abortion, CofE – allowed in some cases like risk to health, Methodist – lesser of two evils, risk of health/ not able to provide for child, Principle of double effect – abortion allowed if it is a side effect of something else e.g. cancer treatment)				
Different Muslim attitudes to abortion and the reasons them (life is a gift from God, ensoulment happens at 120 days, mostly viewed as wrong although acceptable circumstances – risk to the mother)				
What euthanasia is and the laws concerning it (<i>assisted suicide</i> – not suicide, voluntary/active, non-voluntary/passive, illegal in UK, legal in some countries eg Switzerland's Dignitas Clinic)				
Arguments for and against euthanasia (For: person's right to choose, dignified death, stops poor quality of life: Against: pressures sick person into decision, slippery slope to allowing euthanasia for other things)				
Different Christian attitudes towards Euthanasia and reasons for them (Most Christians – not allowed, it's taking life away, goes against God's plan; Some Christians – allowed, improves quality of life/death, agape –the most love)				
Different Muslim attitudes towards Euthanasia and reasons for them (opposed to Euthanasia – seen as suicide, against the teachings of the Qur'an, life is valued, life is a test from Allah)				
Life and death in the media (affects all people, issues appear in soaps/documentaries, positive and negative effects)				
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Area of Study: Marriage and Family				
The changing attitudes to marriage, divorce, family life and homosexuality in the UK and reasons for them (roles of men & women, rise in cohabitation before/instead of marriage, introduction of civil partnerships, effect of the media)				
Christian attitudes to sex outside marriage and reasons for them (Bible messages, saved for marriage, procreation in stable environment, faithfulness, cohabitation)				
Muslim attitudes to sex outside marriage and reasons for them (Qur'anic message = forbidden, saved for marriage, procreation in stable environment)				
Different Christian attitudes towards divorce and reasons for them (Catholic – no divorce but annulment is allowed, no remarriage in church. CofE – allows divorce in some cases and remarriage in a church)				
Different Muslim attitudes towards divorce and reasons for them (divorce is a contract, procedure to divorce, last resort)				
Different Christian attitudes towards homosexuality and reasons for them (Conservative Christians – Homosexuality is wrong, Catholic – homosexuals should be celibate, CofE – more accepting of gay relationships, Quakers – love matters most)				
Different Muslim attitudes towards homosexuality and reasons for them (strongly against – a sin, punishable by death; modern Muslims may support people)				
Christian teachings on family life and its importance (nuclear family, reconstituted family, same sex parents, single parents)				

Muslim teachings on family life and its importance (heart of community, family values, traditional teachings)				
Different Christian attitudes to contraception and the reasons for them (Natural/Artificial contraception, contraception prevents God's plan/contraception is part of sensible planning)				
Different Muslim attitudes to contraception and the reasons for them (mixed views, strict – procreation put first; ok if protecting mother's life/health, natural and artificial methods)				
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Area of Study: Belief in God				
The main features of a Christian upbringing (Baptism, Worship, School, Community, Adulthood)				
How a Christian upbringing may lead to or support a belief in God (religious environment, support from other people)				
Religious Experiences such as numinous, conversion, miracles and prayers (Lourdes, St Paul's road to Damascus)				
How a religious experience may lead to or support a belief in God (evidence of God, inspiration, strengthens faith)				
The argument from causation (Aquinas, dominoes)				
The argument from design (Paley's watch, complexity)				
How the arguments from design and causation may lead to or support a belief in God (evidence, logical arguments)				

Why scientific explanations of the origins of the world may lead some people to reject a belief in God (big bang, evolution, proof, atheism)				
How Christians respond to scientific explanations of the origins of the world (God caused big bang, bible is symbolic)				
Why unanswered prayers may lead some people to reject a belief in God (atheism, omnibenevolent vs omnipotent)				
How Christians respond to the problem of unanswered prayers (test of faith, asking for wrong things, God's plan)				
Why evil & suffering may lead some people to reject belief in God (moral evil/natural evil, God doesn't/can't stop it)				
How Christians respond to the problem of evil & suffering (a test, God's plan, free will, helps us follow Jesus' example)				
How 2 TV programmes or films which show religion may affect a person's attitude to belief in God (songs of praise, Father Ted, Bruce Almighty)				
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