



Religious Education Yate Academy 2019/2020





Curriculum Statement of Intent- Religious Studies

The curriculum is much more than just lessons. It includes the ethos, attitudes and relationships which create the high-quality life in all of our schools. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and rigorous curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every young person and leaves them well prepared for their future.

In Religious Studies, our intent is that the RS curriculum will extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, recognising their local, national (individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) and global context. Key questions will allow students to understand how belief influences actions and lives of individuals and groups. Students will be able to recognise RE within other subjects and disciplines.





Big Ideas- Religious Studies

Big Ideas are the building blocks of subjects. They are: -

- Concepts and ideas that helps us make sense of lots of otherwise isolated or disconnected facts.
- Principles, theories, or processes that serve as a focal point of a subject.
- Something that changes the way a we think about information or schema.

The big ideas in this subject are: -

Big Idea	Description			
Belief	All humans operate a belief system. How is this formed? How does this impact individuals, communities and the wider world?			
Source of authority/wisdom	All beliefs originate from a source of authority/wisdom. These enable humans to make decisions and make sense of the decisions of others.			
Practice/traditions	The impact and application of beliefs on the way people live their life.			
Impact of belief on society	The morals, ethics and values of individual communities and societies. The impact of belief on humanity.			





Age-related expectations identify what is expected of our learners by a specified age, stage or year group. Our curriculum defines these as a set standard of expectations which are defined either as exemplars, descriptors or questions.

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Year 7 Term 1

Topic: What is RE? Belief in God

Big Ideas: Belief, source of authority/wisdom, practice and tradition

ARE Statement: To understand theists beliefs on characteristics of deities

Exemplar work OR Questions

To consider how things are proved to exist

To be able to examine theist beliefs about what God is like

To apply key quotes to explain Christian beliefs in the characteristics of God.

To investigate Sikh beliefs about God

To understand Sikh beliefs about God

To be able to explain the Sikh 5 Ks and consider the importance of wearing the Ks to Sikh beliefs

Subject knowledge required for mastery

- Belief- An acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof
- Fact Something that can be known and is proved to be true
- Opinion- A view or judgement formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge
- Faith- Complete trust or confidence in someone or something
- Theist- Belief in the existence of a supreme being or deities
- **Atheist-** A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods
- Agnostic- A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God
- **Monotheist** The doctrine or belief that there is only one God
- Transcendence- Existence of experience beyond the normal or physical level
- Immanent- Existing or operating within, God pervading and sustaining the universe





- **Omnipotent-** Of a deity having unlimited power
- Omniscient Deity knowing everything
- Omnipresent- God present everywhere at the same time
- Omnibenevolent- Unlimited or infinite behaviour
- **5Ks-** The five Ks are five items that Guru Gobind Sing commanded Khalsa Sikhs to wear at all times in 1699. They are: Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kachera and Kirpan

Key scripture/teaching

Deuteronomy 32:11-12 Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer Exodus 3:2-6 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. The Mool Mantar Ik Onkar' meaning 'there is one God

Model response

Christians are monotheistic believing that there is only one God. One Christian belief in the nature of God, is that God is omnipotent. Christians believe that God is all powerful as in the bible it states 'in the beginning God created the heavens and earth', this quote suggests that God created the entire universe through his unlimited power. A second Christian belief about God is the belief that God is omniscient. Christians believe that God is omniscient and knows everything about his creations, the bible teaches Christians that God knows all down to the individual hair of a person. The

bible supports this belief 'before I know you were born, I knew you', showing that God knows everything about his creation.

Sikhs believe that there is only one God (monotheism), this belief is found in the Mool Mantra a short prayer said by Sikhs each morning, the first words of the Mool Mantra are Ik Onkar this confirms Sikhs beliefs in one God – Waheguru. Sikhs who are members of the Khalsa are required to wear five symbols, known as the five Ks; kara, kanga, kesh, kachera and the kirpan. The five Ks are important as they symbolise Sikh beliefs and their identity. The Kara (steel bracelet) shows Sikh belief in the eternity of God, a symbol of God having no beginning or end. It acts as a reminder that a Sikh should not do anything of which the Guru would not approve.







Year 7 Term 2



Topic: How did the universe come into existence? Our world

Big Ideas: Belief, source of authority/wisdom, Impact of belief on society

ARE Statement: To understand societies beliefs towards the origin on the universe and how this belief affects the way society responds to the environment

Exemplar work OR Questions

To describe tribal myths about the origin of the universe

Explain the type and purpose of the Genesis creation text

Explain what Genesis 1 teaches Christians on the origin of the universe

Explore the scientific evidence on the big bang

Explain scientific theories to the origin of humanity- evolution theory

Analyse whether science and religion can work together

Show how Christians have used Genesis 1 and 2 to guide them on the treatment towards the environment

Subject knowledge required for mastery

Creation - The action or process of bringing something into existence

Myth - A traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of people, usually involving supernatural beings or events

Genesis- Narrative used by Judaism and Christianity. The narrative looks at the creation of the world and humanity

Ex Nihilo- Theological concept t meaning "out of nothing", linked to the concept of creation

Big bang theory - The most common theory used amongst scientist for the theory of the universe, from the very early stage to the present day.

Evolution theory- The biological theory set forward by Charles Darwin to explain the process of natural selection. The



change in characteristics of species over generation.

Cosmological argument - Thomas Aquinas argument for the existence of God. All things depend on something else for their existence- cause and effect, therefore the whole cosmos must therefore depend on being that is not itself caused, the First Cause- God.

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Teleological argument- William Paley argue that due to the complexity of the world there must be a purpose to it. He suggests that there must be a designer, which he said was God.

Environment- The natural world and its surroundings in which humans, animals or plants live and operate

Dominion - To have control or sovereignty over the environment or specie

Stewardship- To take care or supervise, the responsibility given to humans from God towards the universe

Key scripture/teaching

Genesis 1- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Six days of creation

Genesis 1:28 Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

Genesis 2: 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Origin of the Species - Charles Darwin

Model answer

1. Explain scientific belief about the origin of the universe. (4 marks)

The Big Bang Theory is the leading explanation about how the universe began. At its simplest, it says the universe as we know it started with a small singularity, then inflated over the next 14 billion years to the cosmos that we know today. The theory suggest that the universe started with an incredibly small, dense singularity, as the universe continued to expand and cool. The solar system started to form about 4.6 billion years ago from a cloud of gas and dust. This cloud started to collapse under the influence of gravity, creating a dense core with a disc of material surrounding it.



2. Explain two Christian beliefs in the origin of the universe. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

Fundamentalist Christians (creationists) believe that as the Bible comes directly from God, everything in it must be the exact truth. Anything that contradicts the Bible is wrong. Therefore, for fundamentalist Christians, the Big Bang theory is not correct. Creationist Christians would therefore argue that the origin of the universe was God. They would argue that the universe was created by an Omnipotent creator, evidence for this belief is found in the bible in the book of Genesis. For creationists Christians, God created the world and everything in it in 6 days and rested on the 7th. The Genesis accounts states "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." Creationists Christians believe that god created a perfect universe as he stated everything he created was good, fundamentalist Christians would therefore argue that the origin of the universe is 6000 years old.

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However, many Christians do not believe the Genesis account to be true in every detail. They believe that God was responsible for the beginning of the universe – that he set things in motion and oversaw the process, as God is seen to be omnipotent, however would argue that the universe was not created in 6 days but a period of time, due to the translation of the Hebrew word 'Yom' meaning age. Many Christians (liberal) would argue that the universe may have been caused by the big bang, however God is at the ultimate centre and the first cause of this- this theory is known as the cosmological argument put forward by Thomas Aquinas.

3. "The universe is here by chance"- Evaluate this statement, your answer must include: 5 marks

- Detailed arguments to support the statement
- Detailed arguments against the statement
- · A religious view point
- · Justified opinion
- Key terms and SPaG

Many scientists such as Richard Dawkins would agree with the statement due to the theory of the big bang. Scientists have gathered a lot of evidence and information about the universe to prove that the universe happened by chance as was not created. They have used their observations to develop a theory called the Big Bang. The theory states that about 13.7 billion years ago all the matter in the Universe was concentrated into a single incredibly tiny point. This began to enlarge rapidly in a hot explosion, and it is still expanding today. The Big Bang theory is supported by evidence that space is expanding,



including the redshift of light from distant galaxies and the existence of cosmic background radiation in all LEARNING TRUST directions. The theory concludes that no deity or designer was needed in order for the universe to come into existence.

In contrast to the argument above, in the 21st century 84% of the world population believe in a deity/deities, leading to the conclusion that the universe is not here by chance but is designed. Many would argue that there is sufficient evidence in our complex world to prove that the world must have been designed, an argument to support this belief is the cosmological argument. Aquinas argued that everything in the cosmos has a cause. If you track things back through a series of causes, there must have been a 'first cause'. He said that this 'first cause' is God. Many may use this argument to support scientific theories towards the big bang, however they would state that God is the 'first cause' that brought the cosmos (universe) into existence.

Christians would also argue against this statement due to their belief in an omnipotent creator God. Creations believe that the universe came from nothing (ex nihilo) and was designed and created by God. The book of Genesis provides evidence for Christians that the universe was created and not here by chance, it states that, God created the world and everything in it in 6 days and rested on the 7th. The Genesis accounts states "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." Creationists Christians believe that god created a perfect universe as he stated everything he created was good. However, many scientists would use the argument of evil and suffering to disprove a creator to the universe, evidence of suffering such as death, illnesses lends weight to the argument against a creator God or argues against an omnipotent/omnibenevolent God.



Year 8 Term 1



Topic: What is it like to be a Muslim in the 21st century

Big Ideas: Belief, source of authority/wisdom, practice and tradition

ARE Statement:

To explain the role and importance of Muhammad to Muslims today

To understand the importance of Salah and Sawm and its significance to a Muslim in Britain today

Exemplar work OR Questions

Explain the importance of key beliefs in Islam - Allah, Tawhid, Iman- Six articles of faith

Explain why the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is important to Islam

Explore the five pillars of Islam

Understand the importance of shahada in worship of Allah

Explain how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution and movements

Explain the significance of prayer to a Muslim

Give reasons and examples to explain how and why Muslims put their beliefs into actions using the fourth pillar/Sawm fasting during the month of Ramadan

Show how beliefs and teaching guide Muslims in responding to the challenging of life in Britain today

Subject knowledge required for mastery

Iman - Meaning of faith- the six pillars of faith; Allah, angels, messengers, books, Last day, Al-Qadar

Tawhid- The concept of monotheism in Islam, linked to the first pillar of Islam the Shahada

Qur'an- The most sacred text for Muslims, contains guidance for humankind, first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the angel Jibril



Prophet Muhammad- The founder of Islam, the final and complete revelation of Islam.

Five pillars of Islam- Five basic acts in Islam, followed by Sunni Muslims. Seen as mandatory and the foundation of Muslim life

Shahada- The Islamic creed, declaring belief and oneness of God

Salah- The second pillar of Islam- five obligation prayers

Wudu- The ritual washing performed prior to prayer

Rak'ahs - The prescribed movements and words followed by Muslims

Mosque- A Muslim place of worship

Mecca- The holiest city for Muslims, the place where Muhammad was born

Sawm- Fourth pillar of Islam, Muslims are required to fast during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar

Eid ul-Fitr- the Muslim festival marking the end of the fast of Ramadan.

Key scripture/teaching

Night of Power- Qur'an 96:1-5

Woe to those who pray, but are unmindful of their prayer, or who pray only to be seen by people

Qur'an 107:4-6

Model answer

Explain why prayer is important to Muslims. (4 marks)

Salat is the obligatory Muslim prayers, performed five times each day by Muslims. It is the second Pillar of Islam. Praying five times a day is seen as an opportunity to stand before Allah, to praise and thank him and ask for guidance. It is a way of keeping Allah continually in mind throughout the day. It deepens a Muslim's faith and dependence on Allah for all their needs, and helps them love and trust their creator, this importance in seen when Muslims perform Wudu, the ritual washing before prayers, to show the importance and respect towards Allah. A second importance of prayer is that it brings the Muslim community Ummah together. Muslims perform salah at set times, thus all Muslims around the world partake in the same



prayer, uniting them together, also Muslims perform Rak'ah certain actions, which one is to prayer towards Mecca, showing the importance of Ummah.

Explain two ways in which following the 5 pillars of Islam influences the life of a Muslim. (4 marks)

The most important Muslim practices are the Five Pillars of Islam. The Five Pillars of Islam are the five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.

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One of the pillars is Zakat, this is charity giving. This Pillar influences a Muslim, as it reminds Muslims that Allah created all humans as equal, therefore by paying alms (charity) to those who are less fortunate Muslims are reminded that everyone should be treated equally not matter their wealth.

Salah influences the daily life of a Muslim. Salah is the five daily prayers Muslims complete each day. Muslims are influences every day to perform these prayers. All Muslims face the direction of Mecca when they pray and perform Wudu to show respect and cleanliness before Allah.

Explain two reasons why the Prophet Muhammad is important to Muslims today. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

Muhammad was born in Mecca in Saudi Arabia in 570. One reason why Muhammad is important to Muslims today is the belief that Muhammad is the final prophet and the complete revelation of Islam was made through Muhammad. This belief is recognised in the first pillar of Islam the Shahadah, Muslims state their belief in Tawhid and Muhammad as the final prophet "there is only one God Allah and Muhammad is his messenger".

A second reason why Muhammad is important to Muslims is the belief that Muhammad received the revelations of the Quran. The traditional story of the Qur'an tells how one night in 610 he was meditating in a cave on the mountain when he was visited by the angel Jibreel who ordered him to recite. Once Jibreel mentioned the name of Allah, Muhammad began to recite words which he came to believe were the words of God.

Explain two reasons why Muslims fast. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

Sawm is fasting. It's the fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam. Muslims are required to fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During the 29/30 days of Ramadan all adult Muslims must give up the following things during the hours of daylight: Food or drink of any sort.

One reason why Muslims partake in Sawm is to give thanks for the Holy Quran which was first revealed in the month of Ramadan. The traditional story of the Qur'an tells how one night in 610 Muhammad was meditating in a cave on the





mountain when he was visited by the angel Jibreel who ordered him to recite. When daylight is over, most LEARN Muslims will break or open the fast with dates or water, following the example of the Prophet Muhammad, before having a proper meal later.

A second reason why Muslims fast, is it provides Muslims an opportunity to share the suffering of the poor and develop sympathy for them. Fasting allows Muslims to practice patience, unselfishness, and gratitude. "It is the month to visit the poor, the sick, and the needy to share their sorrows. It is the month where the food, sustenance and the earnings of a believing Muslim increases and they are blessed," says the Final Prophet of God, Muhammad (peace be upon him).



Year 8 Term 2



Topic: Special Journeys

Big Ideas: Belief, source of authority/wisdom, Practices

ARE Statement:

To evaluate the purpose of religious pilgrimages, explaining two contrasting pilgrimage sites of Lourdes and Hajj

Exemplar work OR Questions

Define the term pilgrimage

Identify reasons why theists may go on a pilgrimage

Locate a variety of religious pilgrimage sites

Explain reasons why pilgrims, visit the site of Lourdes

Analyse whether miracles take place during Lourdes

Describe the ritual of Ihram, Tawaf and Jamarat

Explain how key beliefs about Muhammad are reflected during Hajj

Subject knowledge required for mastery

Pilgrimage- A journey of spiritual or religious significance

Pilgrim - A pilgrim (from the Latin peregrinus) is a traveller (literally one who has come from afar) who is on a journey to a holy place.

Miracles- an extraordinary event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency

Lourdes- The pilgrimage site of Lourdes located in the South West of France. Each year millions of Roman Catholics pilgrims visit the site due to the apparitions of the Virgin Mary seen in 1858 by Bernadette.



Grotto- Roman Catholic pilgrims visit the grotto to pray and ask for healing where the visions are said to have taken place

Hajj - The fifth pillar of Islam to the pilgrimage site of Mecca, Muslims try to complete Hajj once in a lifetime. It takes place of the 12 month of the Islamic calendar Dhu al-Hijjah

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Mecca- The holiest city for Muslims. The Ka'bah, the centre of the Grand Mosque and consider to be the most sacred site.

Tawaf- One of the rituals perform during Hajj, circumambulating or walking 7x around the Kab'ah anticlockwise

Jamarat- The stoning of three pillars to signify the rejection of the devil

Ihram- The state of purity before entering on a pilgrimage to Hajj, Hajjis or pilgrims wear simple white clothes called Ihram

Hijrah- Muhammad's migration in 622 CE from Mecca to Medina

Eid-UI-Fitr- The second largest festival Muslims worldwide. The festival remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to.

Key scripture/teaching

Quran 22:27 And proclaim that the people shall observe Hajj pilgrimage

Quran 2:197Hajj shall be observed in the specified months. Whoever sets out to observe Hajj shall refrain from sexual intercourse, misconduct, and arguments throughout Hajj

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Model answer

Explain two contrasting religious pilgrimages (4marks)

For Muslims it is a duty to go on pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) in Saudi Arabia at least once in their lifetime, as long as they are physically able and can afford it. The pilgrimage to Makkah is called Hajj and is the fifth Pillar of Islam. Muslims try to go to Makkah during Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar. Every Muslim goes there and worships the Kabaah, this is considered by Muslims everywhere to be the most sacred spot on Earth as Muslims orientate towards the Kabaah



during their 5 daily prayers. It is believed to the house of Allah.

In contrast to this pilgrimage, Lourdes is near the Pyrenees Mountains in France. Every year, it is visited by millions of pilgrims, particularly Roman Catholics. They come to Lourdes to see the site of a famous vision experienced by a young girl called Bernadette and to be healed by its supposedly miraculous waters. Lourdes is considered a special place to visit because prayers and services are believed to bring real blessings to the pilgrim. Pilgrims may visit to be cleansed of their sins and to be cured of their illnesses. It is believed that spring water from the grotto can heal people if they are sick. Millions of visitors come to Lourdes each year in the hope of being cured.

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Explain two religious beliefs on why pilgrimages are important. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

One key belief on the importance of pilgrimage for the pilgrims who visit Lourdes, is the belief that God can perform miracles and heal those who are sick. Lourdes is considered a special place to visit because prayers and services are believed to bring real blessings to the pilgrim. Pilgrims may visit to be cleansed of their sins and to be cured of their illnesses. It is believed that spring water from the grotto can heal people if they are sick. Millions of visitors come to Lourdes each year in the hope of being cured. Christians believe that God is omnipotent, the bible states that 'nothing is impossible with God' and therefore believe that Gods power can heal and provide a cure to their illness at Lourdes.

A second reason why pilgrimages are important to theist, is due to the journey being made as a community. When taking part in Hajj, Muslims come together from all races and nationalities and the pilgrimage brings the Ummah together. This belief in equality and community can be particularly seen throughout the first stage of Hajj (Ihram). Ihram relates to the state of purity and equality before God (Allah) which Muslims enter before going on Hajj. To symbolise this state, male pilgrims wear two lengths of white cloth whilst on Hajj. The state of Ihram signifies the belief that everyone is created equally by Allah.

"Miracles do not happen at Lourdes"- Evaluate this statement, your answer must include: 5 marks

- Detailed arguments to support the statement
- Detailed arguments against the statement
- A religious view point
- Justified opinion



Key terms and SPaG



Many atheists would agree with statement and argue that miracles do not happen at Lourdes. Those who believe in miracles, believe that extraordinary events that cannot be explained by science are performed by an omnipotent deity, however atheists would argue where is the proof. To many, events such as claims of healing at the pilgrim site of Lourdes could be a result of a coincidence. This belief is shared amongst psychologist who would claim that the cause of miraculous healing is due to the placebo effect; where belief alone causes healing not God.

Although these claims have been made, to many the very nature of the 69 unexplainable accounts at Lourdes provides sufficient evidence that miracles do happen at Lourdes and argue against the statement. All miracle claims at Lourdes are checked and verified by an independent body of scientists and doctors, only once all checks have been made can Bishops clarify the case as a miracle, this would lead many to conclude that miracles do happen today. In contrast to this argument, atheist may argue the sparse nature of the miracles, with millions of pilgrims attending Lourdes each year, why have only 69 miracles occurred over a 200-year period, surely an omnipotent God could heal all? Thus, concluding that miracles do not take place at Lourdes.

Christians, in particular, Roman Catholics, would argue against the statement. Throughout the bible, Christians read of accounts of Miracles performed by Jesus (God in human form) for example Jesus healing the sick, supporting their belief in Gods omnipotence power. They would therefore argue that if Miracles happened 2000 years ago they can still happen today, due to their belief in Trinity and the holy spirit. Christians read that "nothing is impossible for God", therefore this belief supports miracles, supporting the 69 cases in Lourdes where science and medicine cannot explain.





Curriculum Map- Religious Education

Below is a curriculum map, showing what is taught at each stage of the year.

	Autumn Term 1.1	Autumn Term 1.2	Spring Term 2.1	Spring Term 2.2	Summer Term 3.1	Summer Term 3.2
Year 7	What is RE? Belief in God Examine theist beliefs about what God is likeOur World How did the universe come into existence?Big Idea- Belief, Source of authority, Practice Religion- Christianity, SikhismBig Idea- Belief, Source of authority, Impact on society Religion- Judaism, Christianity		istence? istence? ies on creation ounts lief, Source of act on society	What is Worship? How do theists worship? Big Idea- Belief, Source of authority, Practice Religion- All 6 religions	How do Hindu's express their beliefs in society? End of year assessment Big Idea- Belief, source of authority, Impact Religion- Christianity	
Year 8	What is it like to b the 21 st cer Big Idea- Belief authority, Impact Religion-	ntury? f, Source of t on society	Big Idea- Sour Prac Religion- All re	Journeys rce of authority, stice eligions, specific nd Christianity	Was God in Auschwitz? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Big Idea- Belief, Source of authority, Impact on society Religion- Judaism, Christianity	

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	Is religion a source of peace? War and Peace	Living in a multicultural society	Social injustice in society	ls there life after	G TRUST
Year		Why do some people treat	III Society	death?	
9	Big Idea- Belief, Impact on belief on society	others differently?	Big Idea- Impact of belief in society,	Do your actions affect your	
	Religion- Christianity, Islam, Buddhism	Big Idea- Belief, Impact on belief on society	source of authority Religion-	destination?	
		Religion- Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity	Christianity, Buddhism	Big Idea- Impact of belief in society, source of authority	
				Religion- Hinduism, Christianity	