KS4 Religious Studies (Edexcel)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Y10	Topic 1: *Christianity* Christian Beliefs The class teacher starts with Christianity and the core beliefs as this a good starting point to understand the key ideas within the faith which leads on well to later topics involving the application of key ideas.	Topic 1: *Christianity* Christian Beliefs cont. Topic 2: *Islam* Core Beliefs Class teacher looks at the comparable ideas within Islam the other faith that students cover in the spec.	Topic 3: *Christianity* Living the Life After learning the key ideas of both faiths the next step is to look at these concepts manifested, where applicable in the day to day life of Christians and Muslims.	Topic 4: *Islam* Living the Muslim Life Once completed with Living the Christian life it helps consolidate previous learning (beliefs) and for contrast comparing living the Muslim life with the Christian life module.	Topic 4: *Islam* Living the Muslim Life cont.	Topic 5: *Christianity* Life After Death After learning the core ideas and day to day practises the next focus is the application of some of the key ideas from 'beliefs' and 'living the life of' to key areas and parts of religious faith such as the belief in life after death and how these views within Christianity manifest on topics like abortion and euthanasia. This topic is a popular topic as those who are religious are likely to believe in life after death or be hesitant on the topic.
Y11	Topic 6: Crime and Punishment Similar to life after death, next students look at the key ideas and practises and how these relate to key ideas and prominent themes or issues for Islam in contemporary society. These build on well from key beliefs as aspects of day to day life for Muslims and enable discussion of Islam within the media.	Topic 6: Crime and punishment cont. Topic 7: Marriage and Family After crime and punishment again the turning to another key aspect of Christian life, further building upon the core beliefs and practises and seeing how these develop.	Topic 7:: *Islam* Peace and Conflict To conclude the study of Islam, students reflect on what it means for Islam to be a religion of 'peace', particularly in relation to Topic 6: Crime and Punishment. This final topic provides an opportunity to explore contemporary issues—such as weapons of mass destruction—and recent news stories, helping students connect religious teachings to the modern world and maintain engagement ahead of the final assessment point.	Revision	Revision	

Subject rationale: Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a popular GCSE option at Pimlico Academy, offering students a rich and engaging opportunity to explore and debate key religious and ethical issues. Through the Edexcel GCSE Specification B, students study both Christianity and Islam—faiths that reflect the diverse backgrounds of our student body.

The course provides a clear and structured understanding of the core beliefs, teachings, and practices of both religions. These are explored within real-life contexts, helping students to see the relevance of religious perspectives in modern society. Students are taught to recall and apply religious teachings, including quotations, and to analyse and evaluate differing viewpoints on a range of moral and philosophical questions.

In the study of Christianity, students examine foundational teachings and consider how these influence values, behaviours, and responses to societal issues in the UK today. Topics such as abortion and euthanasia are explored in depth, with students encouraged to reflect on their own views while understanding Christian responses.

The study of Islam follows a similar approach. Students explore key Islamic beliefs and practices and consider their significance within the Muslim faith. They examine contemporary issues such as crime, peace, and conflict, developing a deeper understanding of how Islamic teachings shape responses to modern challenges.

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to compare and contrast the Christian and Muslim worldviews and to consider the role of religion in shaping both personal beliefs and wider UK society. The subject fosters critical thinking, respectful dialogue, and thoughtful reflection, preparing students to engage thoughtfully with the diverse world around them.