

Religious Studies

Exam Duration	Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 Minutes Paper 2 - 1 Hour	Equipment	Black pen x 2
Revision Resources	Class notes Revision mind maps provided in class. GCSE Pod Seneca		
Exam Revision Checklist			
Content			Revised?
Buddhism			
3.1.1	<p>Key Beliefs</p> <p>The Dhamma (Dharma)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The concept of Dhamma (Dharma). ● The concept of dependent arising (paticcasamupada). ● The Three Marks of Existence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - anicca (impermanence) - anatta (no fixed self) - dukkha (unsatisfactoriness of life, suffering). ● The human personality, in the Theravada and Mahayana traditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theravada: the Five Aggregates (skandhas) of form, sensation, perception, mental formations, consciousness - Mahayana: sunyata, the possibility of attaining Buddhahood and Buddha-nature. ● Human destiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - different ideals in Theravada and Mahayana traditions: Arhat (a 'perfected person') and Bodhisattva ideals - Buddhahood and the Pure Land. <p>The Buddha and the Four Noble Truths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Buddha's life and its significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the birth of the Buddha and his life of luxury - the Four Sights: illness, old age, death, holy man (Jataka 075) - the Buddha's ascetic life - the Buddha's Enlightenment. ● The Four Noble Truths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suffering (dukkha) including different types of suffering 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the causes of suffering (samudaya); the Three Poisons, ignorance, greed and hate - the end of craving (tanha), interpretations of nibbana (nirvana) and Enlightenment - the Eightfold Path (magga) to nibbana/nirvana; the pathas the Threefold Way: ethics (sila), meditation (samadhi) and wisdom (panna). Dhammapada 190–191. 	
3.2.2	<p>Practices - Worship and festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The nature, use and importance of Buddhist places of worship including temples, shrines, monasteries (viharas), halls for meditation or learning (gompas) and their key features including Buddha rupa, artefacts and offerings. ● Puja, the significance and role of puja/devotional ritual in the home and in the temple, including chanting, both as a devotional practice and as an aid to mental concentration, mantra recitation, use of malas. ● Meditation, the different aims, significance and methods of meditation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Samatha (concentration and tranquillity) including mindfulness of breathing - Vipassana (insight) including zazen - the visualisation of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. ● The practice and significance of different ceremonies and rituals associated with death and mourning in Theravada communities and in Japan and Tibet. ● Festivals and retreats and their importance to Buddhists in Great Britain today, including the celebrations, origins and significance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wesak - Parinirvana Day. <p>Buddhist ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ethical teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - kamma (karma) and rebirth - compassion (karuna) - loving kindness (metta). ● The five moral precepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not take life - do not take what is not given - do not misuse the senses - do not speak falsehoods - do not take intoxicants that cloud the mind. ● The six perfections in the Mahayanan tradition: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - generosity - morality - patience - energy - meditation - wisdom, including how the individual develops these perfections within themselves. 	
Judaism		
3.1.6.1	<p>Beliefs and teachings: Key beliefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God as one. ● God as creator. ● God as law – giver and judge, loving and merciful. ● The divine presence (Shekhinah). ● Life after death including resurrection and resurrection. ● Messiah <p>The Covenant and the Mitzvot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promised land and covenant with Abraham. ● Covenant at Sinai including the role of Moses and the 10 Commandments. ● Key moral principles including justice, healing the world, charity and kindness to others. ● Sanctity of life including the concept of 'saving a life' (Pikuach Nefesh). ● Free will and the 613 mitzvot. ● Mitzvot between man and God and man and man 	
3.1.6.2	<p>Practices: Synagogue and worship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Importance of the synagogue. ● Design and religious features of the synagogue. ● Public acts of worship. ● Shabbat in the home and the synagogue. ● Worship in the home and private prayer. ● Tenakh (written law) and Talmud (oral law) <p>Family life and festivals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brit Milah ● Bar and Bat Mitzvah ● Marriage ● Mourning ● Dietary laws – Kosher and trefar ● Festivals and their importance including the origins and meanings of Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur and Pesach. 	
Thematic Studies - Paper 2		

<p>3.2.1.1 Theme A</p>	<p>Religion, Families and Relationships</p> <p>Sex, marriage and divorce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships. ● Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage. ● Contraception and family planning. ● The nature and purpose of marriage. ● Same-sex marriage and cohabitation. ● Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying. ● Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion. <p>Families and gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The nature of families, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the role of parents and children - extended families and the nuclear family. ● The purpose of families, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - procreation - stability and the protection of children - educating children in a faith. ● Contemporary family issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - same-sex parents - polygamy. ● The roles of men and women. ● Gender equality. ● Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples. 	
<p>3.2.1.4 Theme D</p>	<p>Religion, Peace and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peace ● Justice ● Forgiveness ● Reconciliation. ● Violence, including violent protest. ● Terrorism. ● Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation. ● The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war and holy war. ● Pacifism. ● Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world. ● Religion and peace-making in the contemporary 	

	<p>world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation. 	
<p>3.2.1.5 Theme E</p>	<p>Religion, Crime and Punishment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corporal punishment. ● Death penalty. ● Forgiveness. ● Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering. ● Reasons for crime. ● Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder. ● The aims of punishment. ● The treatment of criminals. ● Forgiveness. ● The death penalty. ● Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life. 	

3.2.1.6
Theme F

Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Human rights

- Prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and treatment within religion of women and homosexuals.
- Issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.
- Human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Social justice.
- Racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.

Wealth and poverty

- Wealth, including:
 - the right attitude to wealth
 - the uses of wealth.
- The responsibilities of wealth, including the duty to tackle poverty and its causes.
- Exploitation of the poor including issues relating to:
 - fair pay
 - excessive interest on loans
 - people-trafficking.
- The responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.
- Charity, including issues related to giving money to the poor.