



Curriculum Map

Year 12

Religious Studies

(New Testament Studies)

Learning Aims and Curriculum Intent:

Content – Students study Paper 3 of the Edexcel A Level Religious Studies specification 9RSO (New Testament). The New Testament is undoubtedly one of the most influential and important pieces of literature to ever shape, divide, and traverse almost every aspect of history throughout the last 2000 years, though it is often dismissed as irrelevant or hard to understand. The content for this paper is focused on giving students the knowledge and skills to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the Bible and its application in the modern world. It begins by placing the New Testament firmly in its historical context so that students can become familiar with some of the more technical language and terminology used in the texts. It is also set in the context of the specific study of the Gospel texts and involves a detailed understanding of the nature of selected passages of text as well as the scholarly and critical methods used today to study the text of the New Testament. There is a focus on understanding the Gospel teaching about how the first Christians understood the New Testament as well as questions surrounding how the New Testament came to exist, and the implications thereof.

Skills – Students will focus on a range of transferable skills including cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills through engaging in dialectics and extensive discussion of theological issues with a strong focus on oracy and expression of argument. In writing and in verbal expression, students will learn to deconstruct information and/or issues to find connections and provide logical chains of reasoning in order to make judgements regarding their importance/relevance to the question context. They will be able to review/analyse information, bringing it together to form a conclusion/judgement and bring pertinent critiques or spot fallacies in theological interpretations, with intelligence and originality. Pupils will gain a better understanding of the historical, religious, and social context of the New Testament in order to place the Bible and Christian theology in its original world and discern some of the key issues of debate that have fascinated theologians for centuries.

Term	Content, Key Questions and Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Michaelmas	<p>1.1, 1.2. The World of the New Testament: putting the Bible in Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When we approach the New Testament, what is the 'backstory' of the Israelites and their expectations of a Messiah? Who are the key social, political and religious figures at the time of Jesus, and how does the 'world' of Jesus shape how we read the text? <p>2.1, 2.2, 2.3 John's Gospel: the most controversial Biblical book?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the opening chapter of John's Gospel one of the most explosive and controversial pieces of theological writing in history? How does John use the miracle stories in his Gospel to convey bold and shocking Christological claims about Jesus? What are the hidden messages and symbols in the Discourses of John's gospel, and how do they change the way we understand the whole story of the Bible? <p>3.1, 3.2 How did the New Testament become the New Testament?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we explain the remarkable similarities between the Synoptic Gospels, written in different times, by different authors? Can we theorise as to the authors of these documents – their motives, backstories, and influences? Is it possible there are key sources hidden or lost in time, yet to be found? Who is the mystery author of John's gospel, and why have scholars disagreed on this for centuries? <p>5.2 Jesus' arrest, trial and execution: why did Jesus have to die?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the historical narrative on Jesus' crucifixion been misleading? How does John's gospel portray the clash between Jesus and the authorities, and why has this been significant? How do we spot clues through the cracks of John's text to get a better glimpse of the earliest days of the Christian faith for those who would eventually take Christianity out of the shadows? 	<p>Proficiency in analysing the New Testament texts; learning to critically examine the language, literary styles, and rhetorical techniques employed by the authors. This skill involves identifying themes, motifs, and the intended messages within the texts as well as their theological & historical significance and for the development of Christian thought.</p> <p>Learning to place the texts within their historical context, understanding the political, religious, and societal factors that influenced the development of early Christianity and the relevance of this today.</p> <p>Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of significant areas of disagreement and debate, and the assessment of historical, contextual, and theological factors.</p> <p>Review/analyse information, bringing it together to form a conclusion/judgement based on strengths/weaknesses, alternatives, relevant data, or information.</p> <p>Come to a supported judgement of a subject's qualities and relation to its context.</p>	<p>Retrieval quizzes to build knowledge acquisition and understanding.</p> <p>Regular exam practice of a range of exam questions, including shorter questions focusing on close detailed analysis of key concepts, and longer evaluative essays drawing together points to form reasoned judgements</p>



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Lent	<p>5.1 Apocalypse, destruction, and drastic social reversal: Luke's Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did early beliefs about the end of the world shape the gospel of Luke? How do Luke's parables dramatically challenge the social norms of the world he is writing in, in his depiction of the poor, outcasts, the disabled, and women? What hidden and urgent messages lie underneath the well-known parables Jesus tells that have shaped the history of Christianity? <p>5.3 The crux of Christian theology: death and resurrection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Christian belief rise and fall almost solely on the belief that Jesus had to be killed? How do theological beliefs about atonement, propitiation and salvation intertwine in the narrative of Luke's gospel writing? If heaven is real – who, and how, do we get in? <p>4.1- How should Christians and historians try and interpret the Bible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the enlightenment period shift the lens on understanding the Bible and its role as scripture? Is it possible that there are moral, allegorical or social readings of the New Testament which add layers of meaning and significance? Can we take certain bits of the New Testament as myth or symbol, and does this take away from the theological significance or authority of the text? 	<p>Demonstrate understanding by investigating different reasons, concepts and ideas. Condensing and distilling large amounts of complex information.</p> <p>On paper and in verbal discussion, formulate an argument based on logical chains of reasoning forming coherent judgements and responding to challenges.</p> <p>Carefully listen and respond to the views and arguments of others, including an evaluation of scholarly contributions and those of key figures.</p> <p>Make pertinent links between a wide range of current and historical theological, ethical and philosophical issues, drawing on the skill of identifying flaws in arguments.</p>	
Trinity	<p>6.1 The Resurrection of Jesus: madness, myth, or miracle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the most plausible theory to explain the empty tomb? Have we missed crucial historical and textual details? Is it possible to sustain Christian faith without accepting the resurrection as a historical event? How has history, science and rationalism provided new challenges to the most significant part of the Jesus story? Has science disproved the Christian religion? <p>6.2 Jesus Christ– what did he actually believe about how we should live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the teachings – about love, sex, money, power, and faith – that made Jesus such a contentious figure? Why were the beliefs so dangerous that he had to die for saying them? How have these been lived out and interpreted in the community of Christians since his death and into today's world? Is 'following Jesus' the same as 'following Christianity'? Where has the Church got its ideas confused? 		

<p>What does consolidation look like in this subject?</p>	<p>Retrieval of key concepts and terminology through regular spaced practice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing course content: Go through your class notes, textbooks, and any other study materials provided by your teacher. Make sure you have a clear understanding of the main ideas, theories, and arguments discussed in the course. Engage with wider reading and online consolidation resources targeted at A Level revision (such as Mark Goodacre's NT podcast and Ben Wardle's Youtube Channel) if you don't understand something. Summarizing key concepts: Create concise summaries or mind maps of the main topics and concepts covered in each unit. This can help you identify connections between different ideas and reinforce your understanding of the subject. Practicing past exam questions: Familiarize yourself with the format and style of the exam by practicing past papers. This will help you become more comfortable with the types of questions you may encounter and improve your exam technique. Engaging in discussions: Participate in group discussions or find a study partner to engage in conversations about the topics you've learned. Sharing and explaining your ideas to others can enhance your understanding and clarify any areas of confusion. Seeking clarification: If there are any concepts or topics that you find particularly challenging, don't hesitate to seek clarification from your teacher or classmates. They can provide additional explanations or resources to help you grasp difficult concepts. Making connections: Religious Studies often involves exploring the relationships between different ideas and themes. Look for connections between New Testament topics, ethical theories, philosophical arguments, and social issues. This will help you develop a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the subject. Revising regularly: Dedicate regular study sessions to revise and consolidate your knowledge. Set aside specific time slots to review your notes, summaries, and practice questions. Spacing out your revision over a longer period is generally more effective than cramming all at once.
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<p>Examples of Homework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay questions: You will be assigned essay questions that require you to critically analyse and evaluate key themes, teachings, and interpretations of the New Testament. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Assess the role and significance of the Sermon on the Plain in the ethical teachings of Jesus in Luke's Gospel." ○ "Evaluate the view that the reason Jesus had to die was because he offended the religious authorities." • Passage analysis: You will be given specific passages from the New Testament Anthology or other parts of the Bible and asked to analyse their content, context, and theological implications. Your task will be to critically examine the language, themes, and interpretations within the given passage. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Analyse and interpret the Parable of the Good Samaritan, considering its message about compassion and social responsibility." • Comparative analysis: You will be asked to compare and contrast different authors, themes, or theological perspectives within the New Testament. This will help you develop a deeper understanding of the diversity and unity within the text. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Compare the titles used for Jesus in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and evaluate their theological significance." <p>These homework tasks focusing on the Edexcel A Level Paper 3 New Testament will provide you with opportunities to apply your knowledge, think critically, and develop your analytical and evaluative skills in the area of New Testament studies. Pay close attention to the instructions, grading criteria, and feedback provided to support your learning and progress.</p>										
<p>Key terminology</p>	<p>Parousia, Salvation, Atonement, incarnation, eschatology, soteriology, Christology, apocalyptic, hermeneutics, exegesis, theology, prologue, source criticism, form criticism, redaction criticism, textual criticism, Hellenism, Logos, synoptic gospels, genealogy, synoptic problem, literal, moral, allegorical, social, historical, blasphemy, political expediency, parable, replacement theology/supersessionism, prophecy, Markan priority, fideism, beatitudes, Gentiles, persecution, revelation, criterion of embarrassment, martyrs, Gnosticism, eucharist, sacramental teachings.</p>										
<p>Super-curricular enrichment and scholarly extension</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="489 955 697 1207"> </td> <td data-bbox="697 955 1676 1207"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="489 1270 697 1522"> </td> <td data-bbox="697 1270 1676 1522"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="489 1543 697 1795"> </td> <td data-bbox="697 1543 1528 1795"> <p>The Person of Jesus – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>Did Jesus Rise from the Dead – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>The Miracles of Jesus – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>The Gospel of John – Short Video from Richard Burridge</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1216 1270 1439 1522"> </td> <td data-bbox="1439 1270 1676 1522"> <p>http://bibledex.com/</p> <p>- A video about every book in the Bible</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1216 1543 1439 1795"> </td> <td data-bbox="1439 1543 1676 1795"> <p>NT Pod: John (podacre.blogspot.com)</p> <p>CHRISTOLOGY: http://www.philipharland.com/Blog/category/podcasts/</p> <p>- Phil Harland has made some podcasts in Series 2 about 'Portraits of Jesus' – there are a couple on John and Matthew</p> </td> </tr> </table>						<p>The Person of Jesus – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>Did Jesus Rise from the Dead – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>The Miracles of Jesus – Lecture with Paul Middleton</p> <p>The Gospel of John – Short Video from Richard Burridge</p>		<p>http://bibledex.com/</p> <p>- A video about every book in the Bible</p>		<p>NT Pod: John (podacre.blogspot.com)</p> <p>CHRISTOLOGY: http://www.philipharland.com/Blog/category/podcasts/</p> <p>- Phil Harland has made some podcasts in Series 2 about 'Portraits of Jesus' – there are a couple on John and Matthew</p>
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<p>Useful websites</p>	<p>Dialogue Magazine Articles – Can be found on SharePoint www.christianpost.com/</p> <p>https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/nt.php - long list of useful sites and resources</p> <p>www.religion.ua.edu/blog/</p>										
<p>Who can I contact?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="489 1900 875 1942"> <p>Head of Department</p> </td> <td data-bbox="875 1900 2849 1942"> <p>Ms Mackie RM@forest.org.uk</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="489 1953 875 1995"> <p>Teachers</p> </td> <td data-bbox="875 1953 2849 1995"> <p>Miss Green, Ms Mackie</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Head of Department</p>	<p>Ms Mackie RM@forest.org.uk</p>	<p>Teachers</p>	<p>Miss Green, Ms Mackie</p>						
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