Wider Learning

Looking to expand your knowledge of world religions or delve deeper into some of the issues you learn about in your RE classes?

Have a look at the following tasks for inspiration…
Reading is a great way to deepen your understanding of some of the issues and topics that we study in RE. It shows the human impact of the topics we discuss and how our lives can be affected by religious, ethical, and philosophical issues. Plus, with so many best-selling books having a religious/philosophical theme it can be a really enjoyable experience too!

Choose a book from the list of books appropriate for your age group on the next slide and then get reading. If you really enjoy a book why not write a review and submit it to your RE teacher. Don’t forget to focus on the link to RE.
‘My Sister’s Keeper’
by Jodi Picoult
This gripping novel introduces some key medical ethics issues relating to organ donation, designer babies, and saviour siblings. An emotional rollercoaster that you will find really difficult to put down and that you will remember long after you finish it!

‘Does my head look big in this?’
by Randa Abdel Fattah
A funny and touching novel about the problems faced by a young Muslim girl. Amal is 17 year old Australian-Pakistani Muslim who has recently decided to wear the hijab. This story explores in a way that is at times hilarious, at others poignant, the impact that this decision has on her life.

‘The Da Vinci Code’
by Dan Brown
This worldwide best seller offers an alternative religious history surrounding the possibility that Jesus Christ was married to Mary Magdalene and has living descendants to this day. A fast paced murder mystery thriller that delves into many aspects of Christian History.

‘The God Delusion’
by Richard Dawkins
The God Delusion is a 2006 best selling non-fiction book by Scientist Richard Dawkins who argues that belief in an all powerful creator God is not only irrational but a delusion. A controversial read which argues that there is no longer a place for God in the modern scientific world.

‘Me Before You’
by JoJo Moyes
A tender and emotional love story between Will (rich, handsome, and completely paralysed from the neck down) and his carer Louisa. Their relationship takes a dramatic twist after Will decides he no longer wants to carry on living with his disability. Can Louisa persuade Will to change his mind, or will Will persuade Louisa to help him end his own life?
2. Get Creating…

Join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition run by RE Today. They welcome entries in (almost!) any artform you can think of, including:

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

Look at the website for further details:
https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2020/

Need inspiration before you get creating? Have a go at this preparation task to get your creative juices flowing:
3. Go exploring…

You may be stuck at home but that doesn’t mean you can’t explore some of the world’s most interesting religious sites and places of worship thanks to a number of virtual tour websites. Choose a tour from the list below and get exploring:

• **Canterbury Cathedral** - UK (Christianity): [https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit/information/tour/](https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit/information/tour/)

• **Golden Temple** – Amritsar, India (Sikhism): [http://sgpc.net/sri-harmandir-sahib-3d-view/](http://sgpc.net/sri-harmandir-sahib-3d-view/)


• **The Wailing Wall** – Jerusalem, Israel (Judaism): [https://www.aish.com/w/](https://www.aish.com/w/)

• **Virtual Pilgrimage** (Multi Faith): [https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gpbk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gpbk)

Why not conduct some further research into the place you visited and then write a postcard to your teacher telling them all about the place you visited and what you learnt on your trip.
4. Get investigating…

Many of the topics we learn about in RE have a connection to the news and current affairs. Have a look at the issues below and conduct some further research into these issues (there are a few links for each topic to start you off).

Why not write a report on one of these issues and submit to your teacher?

**Marriage and the Family:**
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4vgywz0jWvRMIHnRSGmNd/im-gay-sikh-and-getting-married](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4vgywz0jWvRMIHnRSGmNd/im-gay-sikh-and-getting-married)
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10487318](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10487318)

**Life and Death:**

**Peace and Conflict:**
- [https://newint.org/features/2019/07/01/debate](https://newint.org/features/2019/07/01/debate)
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-44124396](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-44124396)

**Crime and Punishment:**
- [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/28/death-penalty-study-4-percent-defendants-innocent](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/28/death-penalty-study-4-percent-defendants-innocent)
- [https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/16/we-know-that-prison-doesnt-work-so-what-are-the-alternatives](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/16/we-know-that-prison-doesnt-work-so-what-are-the-alternatives)
5. Get watching…

Just as with reading, films and documentaries are a great way to deepen your understanding of RE and how the subject links to the wider world.

Choose a film or documentary appropriate for your age group from the next slides and then get watching. If you really enjoy a film why not write a review and submit it to your RE teacher. Don’t forget to focus on the link to RE.
Bruce Almighty (PG): This film links really well to our units of work about beliefs about God. After moaning that God isn’t doing a good enough job Bruce is given all of God’s powers to see if he can do any better! Look over your work on the omni words and see how many examples of each you can spot in the film. The sequel *Evan Almighty* is also worth a watch.

Bend it Like Beckham (12): This film links really well to our work on Sikhism. As you watch think about the challenges Jess faces growing up in a Sikh family. Overall do you think her religion has a positive or negative impact on her life? There are also strong links to issues relating to roles within the family and equality. Look back at the work we have done on religion and culture and think about the crossover and why this causes confusion.

Tsunami - where was God?: This fascinating 2 part documentary links really well to our work on evil and suffering and is available for free on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM_tCFF8gwM&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM_tCFF8gwM&t=7s). As you watch cast your mind back to the work we did on the problem of evil and ask yourself the question of why a supposedly omnipotent, omnibenevolent God would allow evil and suffering to happen?
Me Before You (12): This film links really well to our work on the subject of euthanasia. As you watch this film think about what you would do if you were in Lou’s position. What are the consequences she faces if she goes through with Will’s request? Another good film on the subject of euthanasia is A Short Stay in Switzerland although this has a 15 rating. Warning – this film deals with content that some of you may find difficult so you may want to discuss with an adult before watching.

The Lovely Bones (12): This beautiful film has lots of links to ideas about life after death. As you watch consider your own beliefs about what happens when you die and compare with ideas from Christianity and Sikhism. Another film with interesting links to life after death is the Disney film Coco which also links to the Mexican festival of the Day of the Dead. Warning – this film deals with content that some of you may find difficult so you may want to discuss with an adult before watching.

The Bible Mini Series (12): This series is a dramatisation of the Bible from creation right through to the ministry of St Paul. It provides a solid foundation for learning about Christianity and all 10 episodes are available for free on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzcbJxV7v9E&t=7s. There are a number of other blockbusters that retell Bible stories such as Noah (12) and Exodus: Gods and kings (12).
6. Get Researching…

There are lots of excellent websites if you want to conduct some further research into any of the religions or topics that we have been learning about at GCSE. Why not write your findings up as a PowerPoint and present to your family and friends?

Christianity:
• **BBC Bitesize** is a good place to start for information, revision videos, and quizzes relating to GCSE Christianity. This link takes you to resources that are specific to our specification (Edexcel): [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh7bxyc](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh7bxyc)
• **RE Quest** contains lots of information, videos, and interactive tasks relating to Christianity: [https://request.org.uk/](https://request.org.uk/)
• **The Bible Society** have created a set of excellent quality resources that have been designed to complement the Christianity component of the Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies specification and can be downloaded for free: [https://educationresources.biblesociety.org.uk/gcse-religious-studies/edexcel/](https://educationresources.biblesociety.org.uk/gcse-religious-studies/edexcel/)
• **NATRE** (National Association of Teachers of RE) have created some excellent free home learning packs relating to a number of key topics relating to Christianity: [https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/key-stage-4/](https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/key-stage-4/)
Sikhism:
• **BBC Bitesize** is a good place to start for information, revision videos, and quizzes relating to GCSE Sikhism. This link takes you to resources that are specific to our specification (Edexcel):  
  https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbswvk7
• **Sikhs.org** is a good website for learning more about the beliefs and practices of Sikhism:  
  https://www.sikhs.org/summary.htm

Humanism:
• **BBC Bitesize** also has resources that link to Humanism/non-religious views. Although these resources are for WJEC not Edexcel the content is the same and so they are useful:  
  https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zt2nmsg/revision/4
• **Humanists UK** also have 2 free online courses designed to help you better understand Humanism which can be accessed for free here:  
  https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/online-courses/