

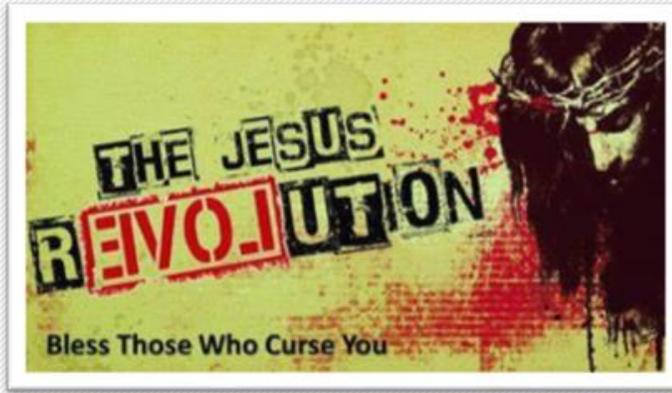
An Introduction to GCSE Religious Studies

What will I study?



Christianity

God, creation, Jesus, incarnation, crucifixion, salvation, atonement, resurrection, sin, judgement, heaven and hell, worship, sacraments, pilgrimage, celebrations, the Church.



Buddhism

Life of the Buddha, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Dukkha, Anicca, Festivals, Death Rituals, Bhavacakra, Five precepts, Theravada, Mahayana, Pure Land, Karuna, Five Precepts.



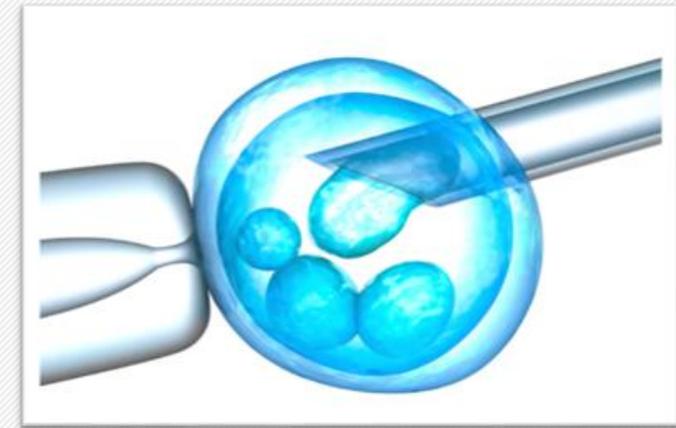
Relationships

Marriage, divorce, sexual relationships, contraception, adultery, etc.



Life and Death

The origins of life and the universe, sanctity of life, IVF, abortion, euthanasia, beliefs about life after death,



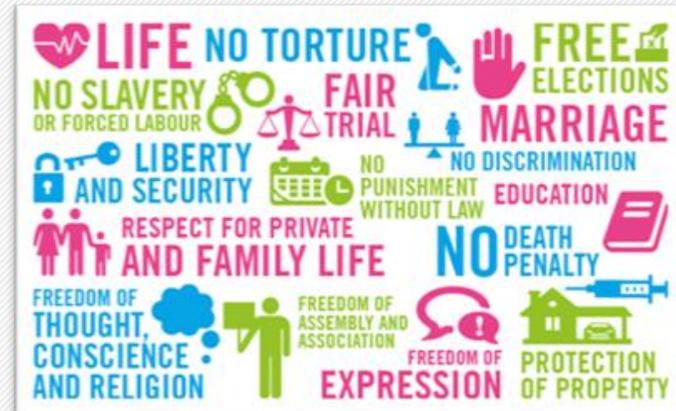
Good and Evil

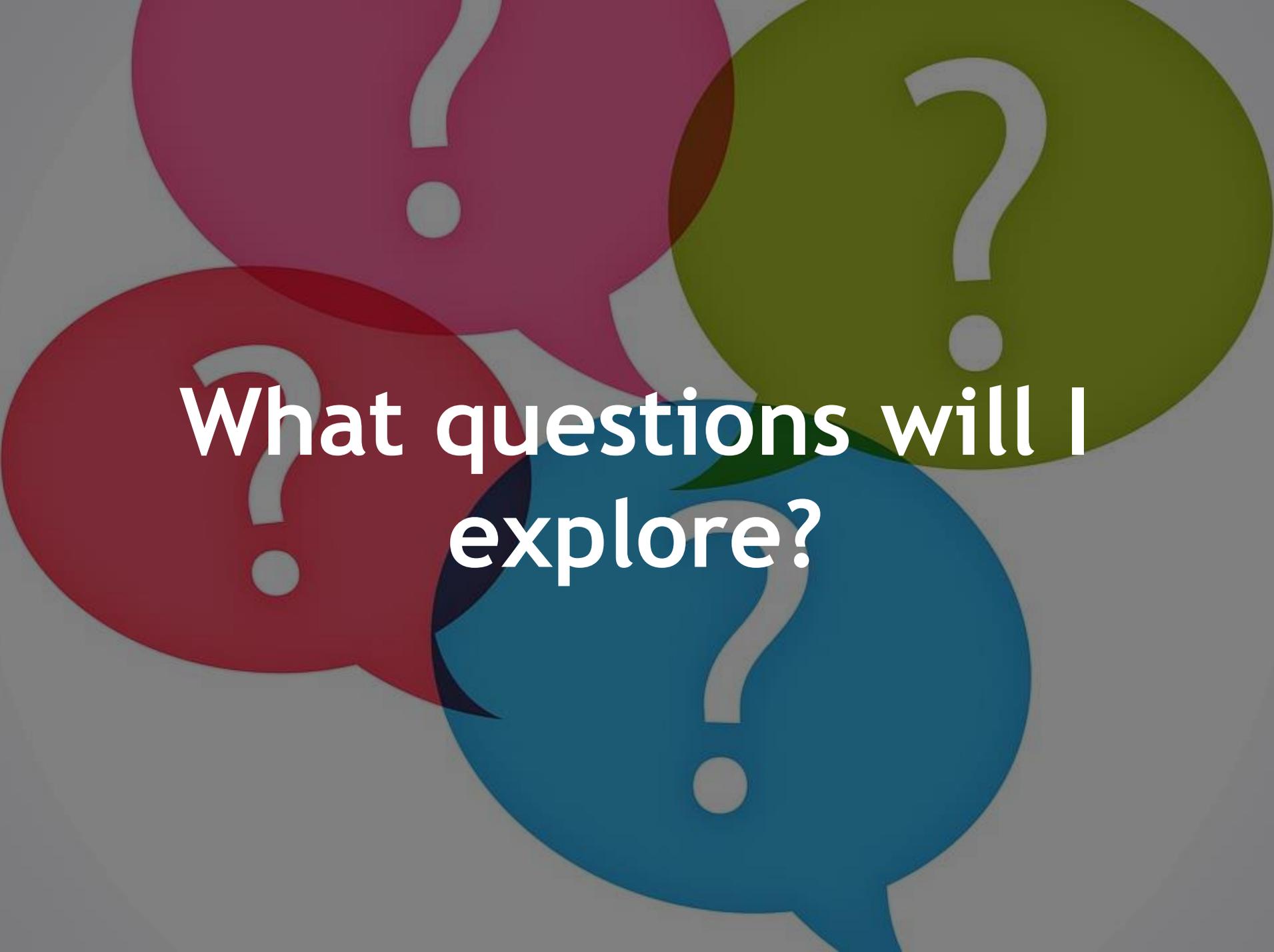
Crime, punishment, death penalty, forgiveness, evil and suffering, existence of God



Human Rights

Human rights and social justice, conflict between beliefs and laws of a country, censorship, prejudice and discrimination, sexism, racism, ageism!

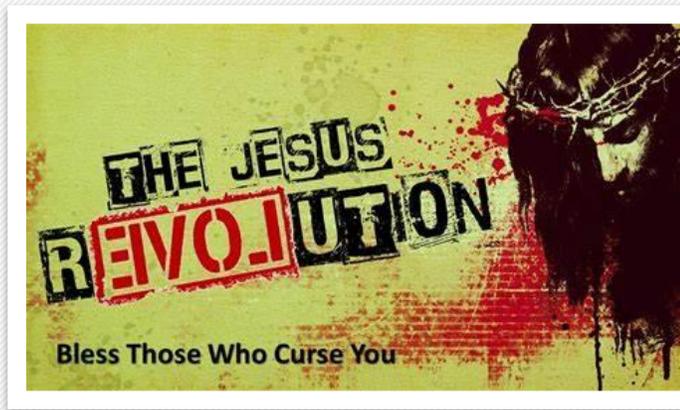




What questions will I explore?

Christianity

Does God exist?
Is God loving?
Did Jesus rise from the dead?
How do Christians live their life?
What happens when we die?
How should we live our lives?



Buddhism

Who was the Siddhartha Gautama?
Is all life suffering?
How can we escape suffering?
What happens when we die?
How do Buddhists live good lives?
What are their key teachings?



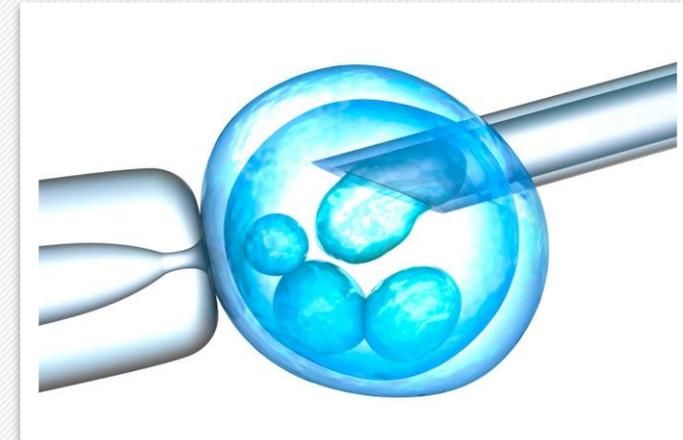
Relationships

Is it ok to have sex before being married?
Is it ok to use contraception?
Is it ok to get a divorce?



Life and Death

Who or what created the universe?
Is it ever ok to end a life?
Is life special?
What happens when we die?



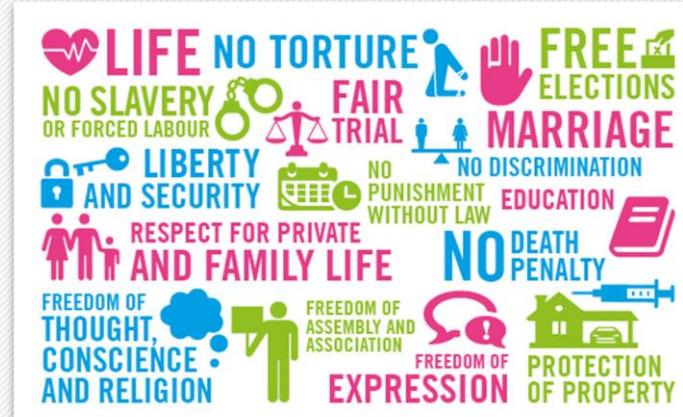
Good and Evil

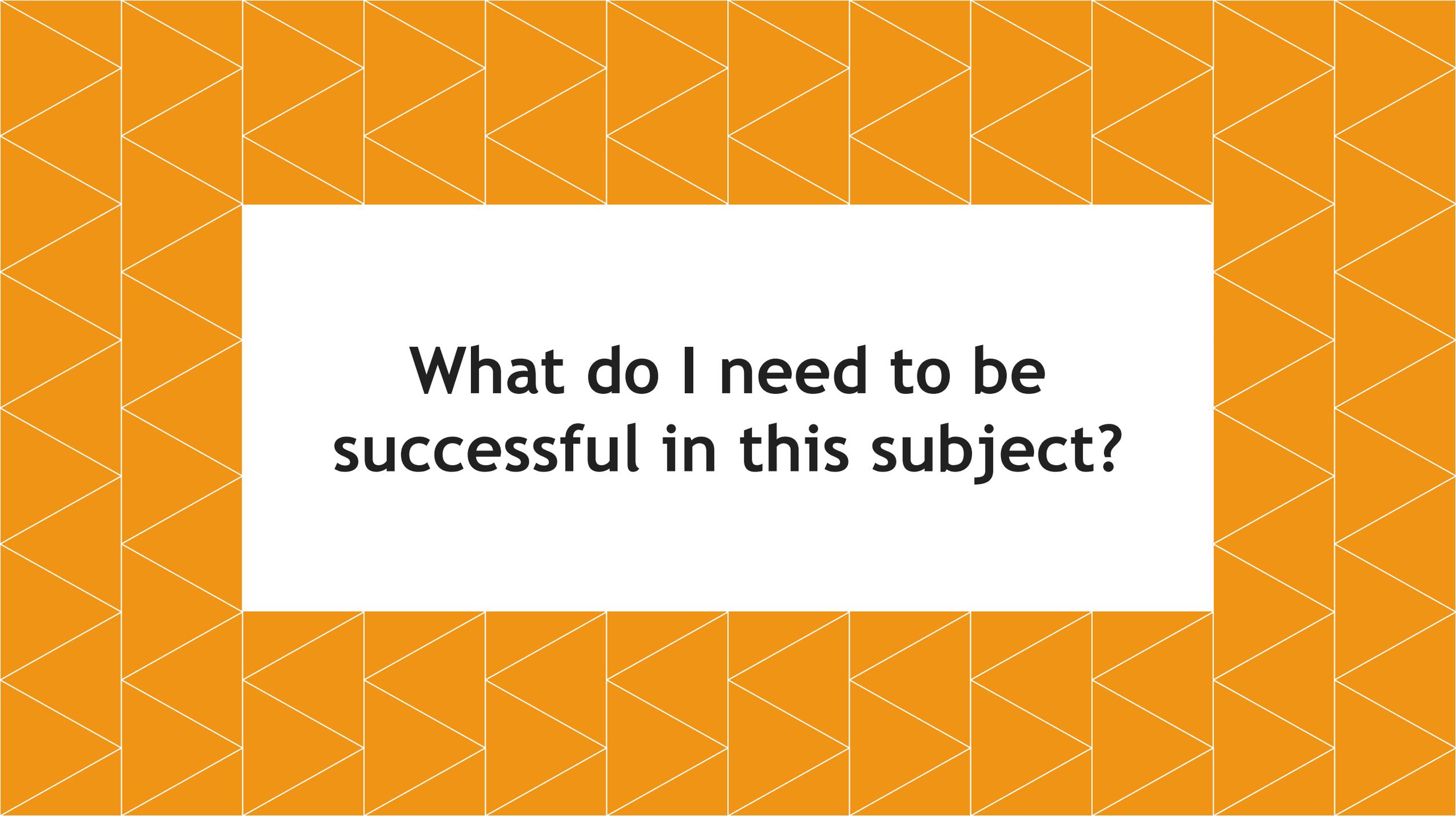
How should we treat criminals?
Is it ever ok to execute someone?
Is God evil?



Human Rights

Are my beliefs or the law more important?
Is it ever ok to treat people differently?
Should the Government have the right to silence me?





**What do I need to be
successful in this subject?**

Desirable skills



Open mindedness

Willingness to
discuss

Empathy

Debate

Argument

Written skills

Intrigue

Willingness to learn

Like asking big
and little questions

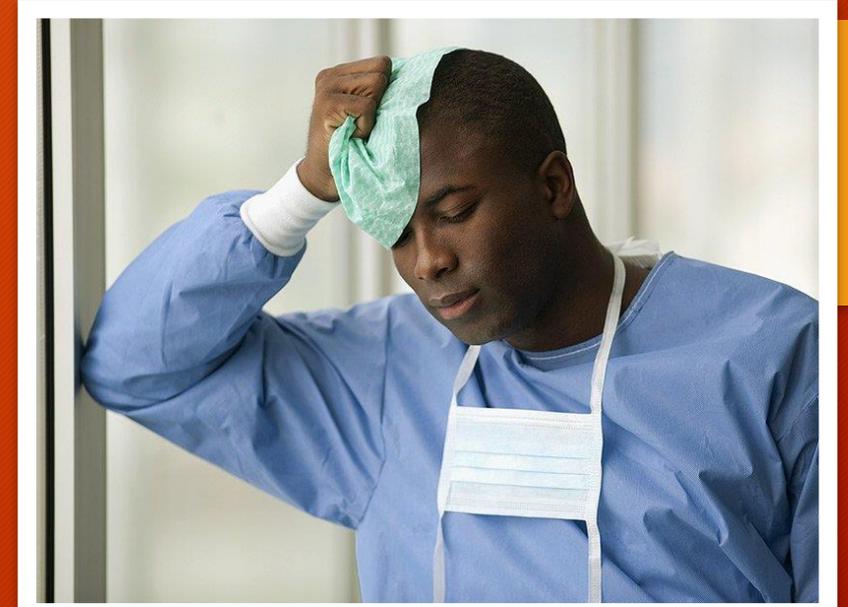


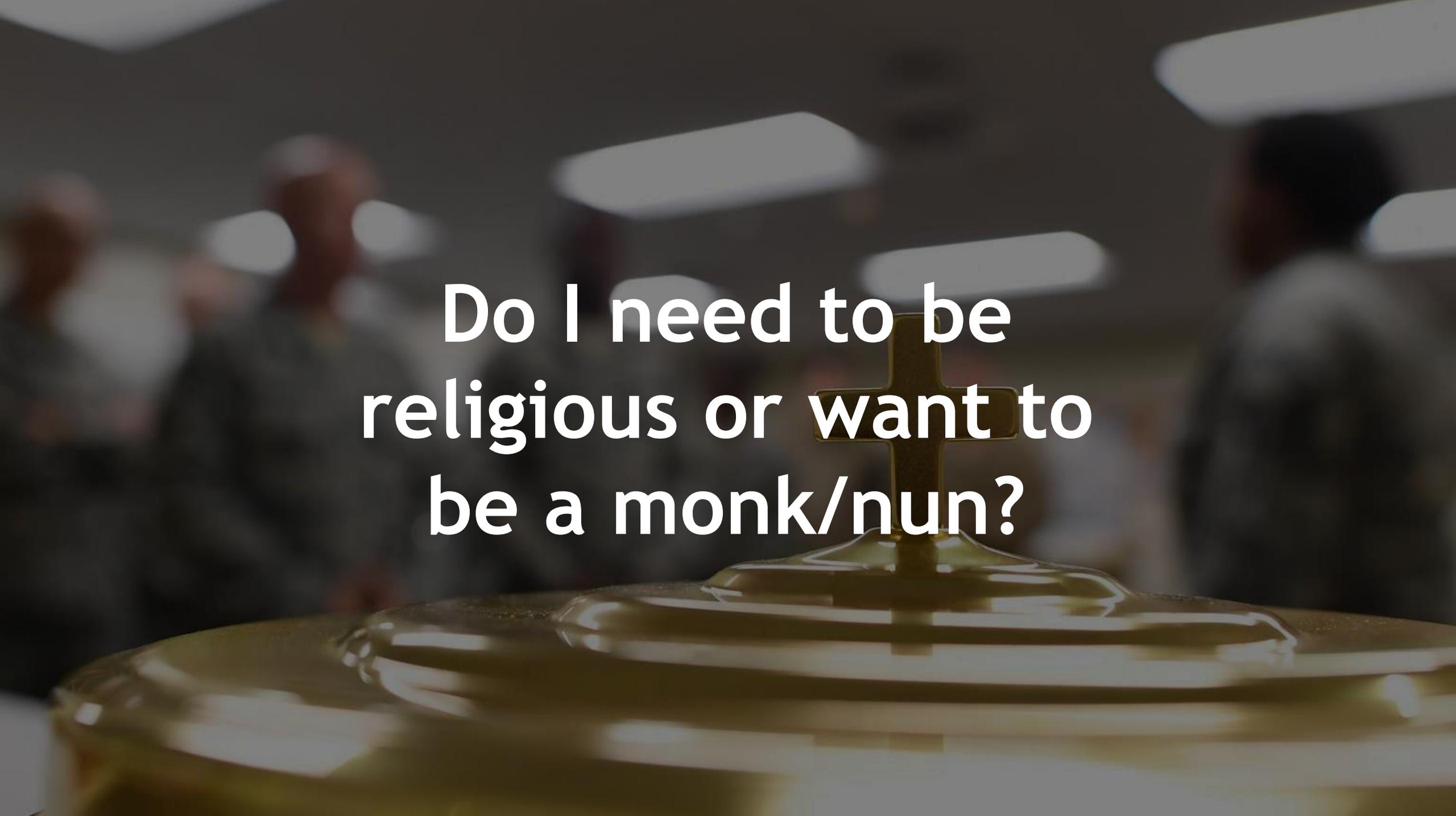
**How will this help me
in the future?**

Critical thinking and debating are skills that are highly sought after in the wider world of further education and within the work place.

The study of philosophy and ethics is highly regarded by universities as an academic discipline; anyone wishing to study Law, work in the armed services or the health service would benefit from this course.

There are many other disciplines that would value this too.



A close-up, low-angle shot of a golden chalice with a cross on top, set against a blurred background of a church interior with people. The chalice is the central focus, with its golden surface reflecting light. The background is out of focus, showing the silhouettes of people and the architecture of a church.

**Do I need to be
religious or want to
be a monk/nun?**

Definitely not!

This is a bright and vibrant area of study that does not require a religious belief system.

It does however require you to be curious about the world around you and have a desire to learn about other cultures, religions and belief systems including atheism (a belief that there is no God) and humanism.

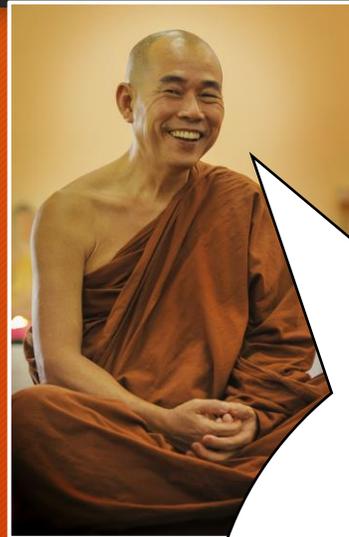


What might a lesson
be like?



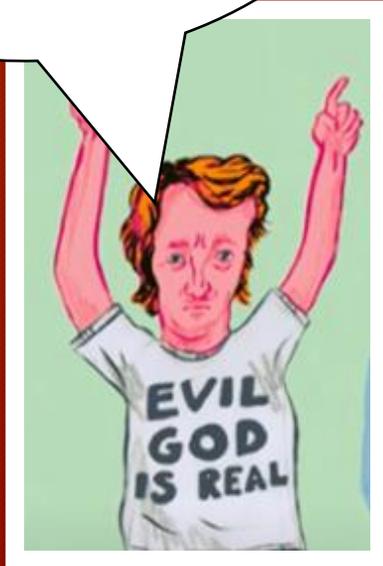
'If God existed, there would be no suffering'

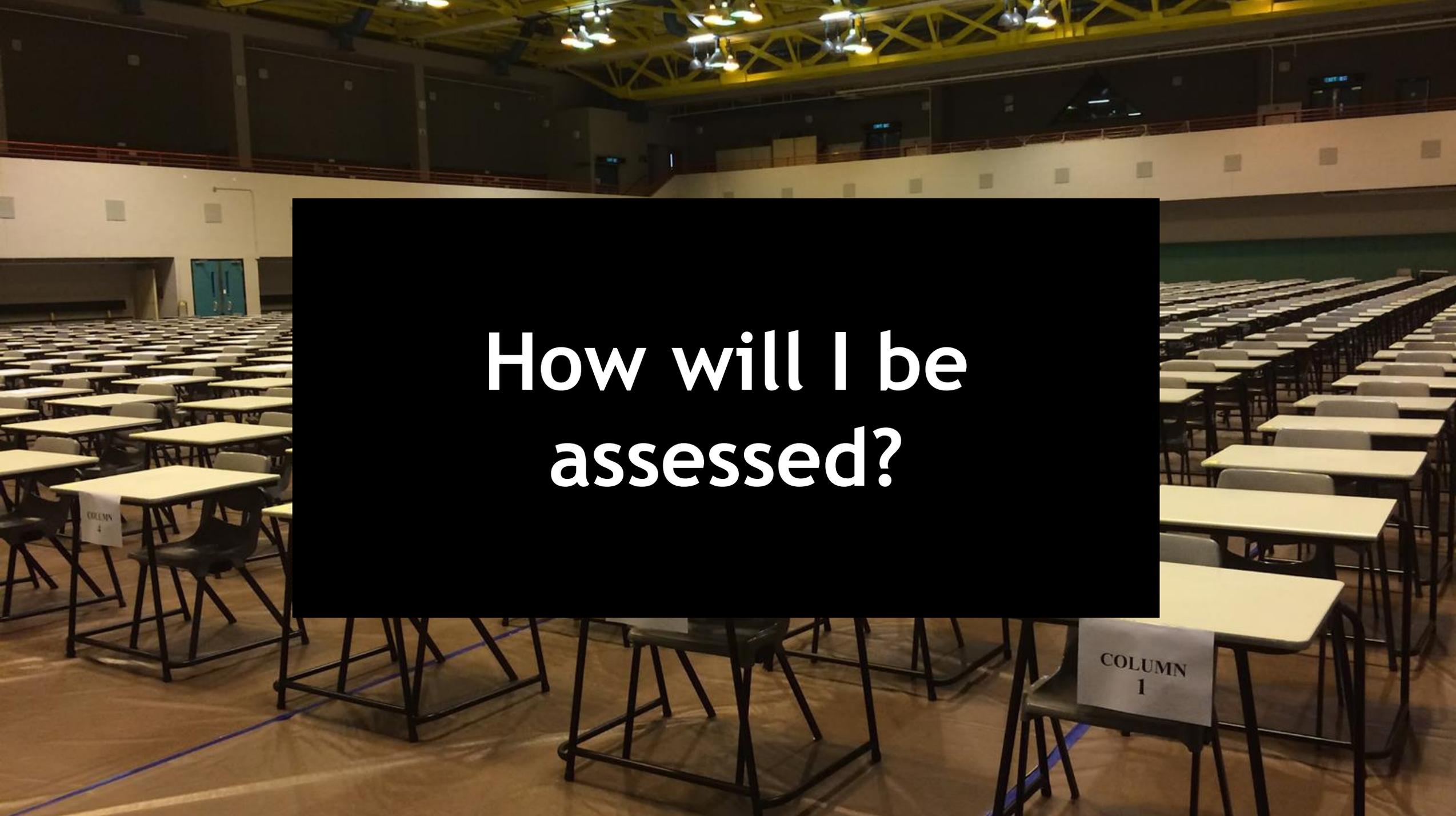
Many Christians argue that God is good and that he loves his creation. They argue that God does not cause suffering rather people using their freewill.



Buddhist do NOT believe in a God but believe that suffering is a part of everyday life. We need to over-come suffering by following the teachings of the Buddha, to escape samsara and suffering.

The atheist, Stephen Law argues that if God does exist, he must be evil because how else do you explain the suffering in the world? He says that suffering proves that the Christian God cannot exist!





**How will I be
assessed?**

COLUMN
4

COLUMN
1

Assessment

2 exam papers - one for each unit

Each paper is 2 hour long

There are 4 questions per section (you will complete 8 sections across 2 exams).

Part A - 2 marks

Part B - 5 marks

Part C - 8 Marks

Part D- 15 marks

1. Issues of Relationships

(a) What is meant by 'commitment'? [2]

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(b) Describe the purpose of sex for religious believers. [5]

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Common Misconceptions - addressed

“There is no Religion in GCSE RS.”

“EP it is the same as GCSE RS.”

“It is an easy subject.”

“It is only my opinion, so it is easy to get good marks.”

“It is all documentaries.”

“It isn’t much writing.”

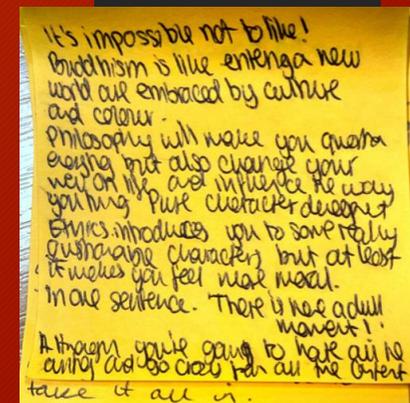


Student comments

“Religious studies is a really interesting subject. Although there is a lot of content, it challenges you to think about things and debate.”

“It can seem overwhelming at first because it can be. But with some growing pains you’ll definitely enjoy it the debated created over the course and learning about a new religion”

“It’s impossible not to like! Buddhism is like entering a new world in which you are embraced by colour and culture. Philosophy will make you question everything but also change your view on life and influence the way you think. It is pure character development. Ethics introduces you to some really questionable characters but it makes you feel more moral. There is never a dull moment”



It's impossible not to like!
Buddhism is like entering a new world and embraced by culture and colour.
Philosophy will make you question everything but also change your view on life and influence the way you think. Pure character development.
Ethics introduces you to some really questionable characters but at least it makes you feel more moral.
In our sentence. There is never a dull moment!
Although you're going to have all the content and so does the rest of the content of all in.