



Scheme of Learning	Topic: Year 7: What does it mean to think and write like a philosopher?
Learning outcomes	By the end of this unit students will develop knowledge and understanding of philosophy as a discipline, understanding the concept of a worldview as something which we all have and reflecting on our own worldviews and how this influences how we approach life. Students will also develop key skills in this topic which will be built on later in KS3, namely the ability to debate, to evaluate evidence and to think philosophically.
Key Question	What does it mean to think and write like a philosopher? What is real?
Knowledge	Key Concepts • Introduction to what RS will look like at secondary school • Exploration of what is meant by big, ultimate, philosophical questions and the categories these tend to fall under • Recognising the importance of perspective in defining what is real • An exploration of what philosophers have had to say about what is real via the study of the poem the Blind men and the elephant and Plato's cave • The importance of analysing sources and not always taking them at face value – importance of interpretation • Applying these skills to the ultimate big question of "Is God real?" – recognising why there are different views on this • Introduction to the concept of worldviews – three in particular are important in this topic – theistic, secular and post modern • Evaluating these worldviews and reflecting on students own worldview • Learning how to make an evaluative argument in RS Key Skills • Knowledge – a rich cultural knowledge of a philosophical traditions that have shaped much of the western world • Debate – how to do this in a respectful and building manner • Evaluation – how to think and write evaluatively • Analysis – of various sacred texts and stories, looking for meaning and symbolism



	• Tolerance and the ability to understand the worldview of others • Critical thinking Key Terms/Glossary: • Theist • Agnostic • Atheist • Philosopher/philosophy • Perceptions • Interpretations • Evidence – sources • Worldview • Evaluation
Ongoing Assessment	In lessons: Retrieval practice quiz at the beginning of each lesson, AFL such as use of mini whiteboards so students can hold up their responses, true/false statements that all students respond to (e.g. thumbs up/down)
Key Assessment	Short multiple choice and short answers assessment - Material from this unit will be assessed more formally along with the next topic at the end of that topic.
Clear sequencing of content	This topic is the first taught in our KS3 curriculum and as such works as an excellent foundation of the skills needed to succeed in high school RS – namely, evaluation, critical thinking and analysis.
Links to Careers	This topic provides students with excellent cultural capital as Philosophy underpins lots of Western culture.
Diversity and Inclusion	Looking at lots of worldviews and perceptions on the world to allow students to see themselves reflected and begin to engage with the worldviews of others



Additional Support

- SharePoint pages – access to all class materials plus wider reading list
- Key Terms shared at the beginning of the topic

Challenge

An excellent and accessible book for those interested in this topic and wanting a challenge is: A Little History of Philosophy by Richard Holloway which explores the themes of this unit in more depth.

For Abrahamic traditions: The Abrahamic Religions: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) by Charles L. Cohen