



Scheme of Learning	Topic: Year 8: Sikhism
Learning outcomes	By the end of this unit students will develop knowledge and understanding of common beliefs and practices of Sikhism (samsara, sewa, equality etc) as well as divergent views (Khalsa lifestyle, etc) Ability to evaluate the role and impact of Sikhism in modern life, which requires development of analytical thinking and writing skills. This will fit into our Year 8 curriculum on the karmic faiths, building on the themes introduced in Hindu Dharma and Buddhism. This will also be a solid foundation for later GCSE study of beliefs about God and dialogues between faiths.
Key Question	To what extent does a Sikh need to join the Khalsa to achieve mukti?
Knowledge	Key Concepts • Describe the life of Guru Nanak, with particular emphasis on his teachings on equality • List and describe Guru Nanak's three principles: Naam Japna, Kirat Karna and Vand Chakna • Describe the meaning of Ik Onkar and the Mool Mantra • Describe the origins of the Khalsa under Guru Gobind Singh • Describe the amrit ceremony • Name and describe the 5Ks worn by Khalsa Sikhs • Describe key features of the Guru Granth Sahib • Describe key features of the gurdwara • Describe sewa and the role of the langar in Sikh practice • Define and describe the relationship between samsara, karma and mukti Key Skills • Explain how Guru Nanak is a role model for Sikhs today • Explain how Guru Gobind Singh is a role model for Sikhs today • Explain the role of the gurdwara in helping Sikhs build good karma • Evaluate the importance of the Khalsa for modern Sikhs • Discuss differences in belief in a respectful way



Key Terms/Glossary:

- Khanda – symbol of Sikhism comprised of 3 swords and a circle
- samsara – the cycle of life, death and rebirth
- karma – the accumulated result of good or bad deeds which impacts a soul's rebirth
- reincarnation – the rebirth of a soul in another body
- mukti – the release of the soul from samsara
- guru -- teacher
- Naam Japna – meditating on the name of God
- Waheguru – the name of God in Sikhism, meaning 'great teacher'
- Kirat karna – earning an honest living
- Vand Chakna – giving selfless service
- Ik Onkar – 'there is only one God'
- Mool Mantra – daily prayer in Sikhism which states key beliefs about God's nature
- Khalsa – special group of initiated Sikhs
- Vaisakhi – festival at which the Khalsa was founded in 1699, still commemorated today
- Panj Pyare – the first five members of the Khalsa
- amrit – sugar water stirred with a khanda (sword) and used to initiate new members to the Khalsa
- karah parshad – sweet eaten at the end of an amrit ceremony or worship
- kesh – long hair
- kangha – comb
- kara – steel bracelet
- kachera – special underpants
- kirpan – special knife/sword carried by Khalsa Sikhs
- Gurmukhi – special language used in the Guru Granth Sahib
- hymn – religious song
- chauri – fan
- takht – throne for the Guru Granth Sahib
- granthi – person who reads and takes care of the Guru Granth Sahib
- gurdwara – Sikh place of worship
- divan hall – main prayer hall
- langar – communal kitchen in a langar



	sewa – voluntary service
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	A focussed short answer knowledge assessment plus a speaking and listening presentation - project style presentation centred around the contribution of a particular assigned guru to the faith. Skills assessed: knowledge, research, source work/interpretation, communication and team work Students will have 2 lessons plus homework time to prepare and will be assessed against clear success criteria for the project.
Clear sequencing of content	This topic builds on religious themes that students learned in Year 7 (particularly Islam) as well as themes from our units on Hindu Dharma and Buddhism (samsara, the caste system). This topic starts with the life of Guru Nanak and his teachings on equality, bridging divides between Muslims and Hindus, men and women, high and low castes. We then study the key beliefs of Sikhism as a monotheist faith using the Mool Mantra. We cover the origins of the Khalsa both as a group for the religiously devout and those who wanted to defend Sikhism against attack. We then examine how these beliefs are applied in modern life: wearing the 5Ks in the Khalsa, participating in prayer and service at the gurdwara/langar. We end by considering how the gurdwara in particular supports Sikhs in gaining good karma, and whether it is still necessary for Sikhs to join the Khalsa.
Links to Careers	This topic, as with all RS topics, provides students with excellent cultural capital knowledge as well as opportunities to discuss differences of worldview in a respectful way. Students are also challenged to reflect on and evaluate different values, both aloud and in writing. Having sound knowledge of these areas can only be an advantage in any future career.
Diversity and Inclusion	• Sikhism is a religion built on principles of equality, which we reinforce throughout the topic • Where applicable, we consider how Sikhism is practiced differently in the Punjab v Britain
Additional Support	Students will have worksheet booklets with key words and tasks included to help them with organising their folders and notes The RS SharePoint page has links to useful sites and podcasts to extend knowledge



Challenge

The BBC Religion pages are also an excellent starting point for further research into the main faith traditions, including Sikhism . <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/>

BBC Bitesize is also useful: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsdtsbk>