



Scheme of Learning	Topic: Year 9:What is Religion?: Origins of Religion and Ninian Smart
Learning outcomes	By the end of this unit students will develop knowledge and understanding of the origins of religion and what constitutes a religion from an anthropological, social and psychological point of view. Knowledge and understanding of the work of Ninian Smart in terms of what constitutes a religion.
Key Question	What is religion?
Knowledge	Key Concepts • The origins of religion. • What constitutes a religion from an anthropological, social and psychological point of view. • The work of Ninian Smart in terms of what constitutes a religion. • Study of various dimensions of religion including ethical, mythical, ritual, social, material, mythical, experiential etc. Key Skills • Evaluation – ability to evaluate the relative significance of different dimensions of religion. • Comparison – ability to draw out parallels, similarities and differences in religions of the world. • Tolerance and the ability to understand the worldview of others. Key Terms/Glossary: • Dimension – an aspect or feature. • Ritual – a ceremony consisting of a series of actions. • Experiential – involving experience. • Mythical – involving potentially fictitious stories which portray morals.
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 1 6 mark written evaluative question marked during the course of the topic.



Clear sequencing of content	This topic allows students to develop their understanding of what constitutes a religion, and follows two years of having looked at the six major religions of the world. The study of Ninian Smart allows students to consider what constitutes a religion, what makes a religion unique and what dimensions of a religion are particularly important. This SoL builds upon the RS work in years 7 and 8 and acts as a bridge to the next SoL, Philosophy and Ethics.
Links to Careers	This topic allows students to evaluate and analyse different ways of life, which lends itself well to any career involving working with people from a range of different backgrounds.
Diversity and Inclusion	The topic is built upon the experiences of a variety of different people, including Sikhs, Amish Christians, Muslims, etc.
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	An excellent and accessible book for those interested in this topic and wanting a challenge is: A Little History of Religion by Richard Holloway which explores the themes of this unit in more depth. The BBC Religion pages are also an excellent starting point for further research into the main faith traditions.