Year 10 Religious Studies GCSE

Starting Point: Baseline Assessment

- **Baseline Test.** At the very beginning of Year 10, you will complete a diagnostic baseline test to assess your existing religious knowledge and extended writing skills. This helps identify your strengths early on and sets clear targets for the year ahead.

Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics (Catholic Christianity)

- **Unit 1: Arguments for the Existence of God.** You will explore philosophical and religious proofs for God, including revelation, visions, miracles, the Design Argument, and the Cosmological (First Cause) Argument. You will also examine non-religious critiques, such as scientific explanations and the Problem of Evil and Suffering. **Milestone: Unit 1 Assessment.**
- **Unit 2: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families.** You will study Catholic perspectives on marriage, sexual relationships, family life, contraception, and divorce in the 21st century. You will also evaluate how these teachings compare with other Christian denominations and non-religious views on gender equality and prejudice. **Milestone: Unit 2 Assessment.**

Paper 2: Study of a Second Religion (Judaism)

- **Unit 3: Jewish Beliefs and Teachings.** You will learn about the nature of the Almighty, the divine presence (Shekhinah), the Messiah, and the sacred covenants made with Abraham and Moses. You will also examine Jewish teachings on the sanctity of human life (*Pikuach Nefesh*), moral principles (*mitzvot*), and beliefs about life after death. **Milestone: Unit 3 Assessment.**
- **Unit 4: Jewish Practices.** You will discover how Jewish beliefs are lived out daily through public worship in the synagogue, prayer, and the study of sacred texts like the Torah and Talmud. You will also explore key rituals surrounding Shabbat, dietary laws (*kosher*), birth, coming-of-age ceremonies, and major festivals such as Pesach and Yom Kippur. **Milestone: Unit 4 Assessment.**

Paper 1: Study of Religion (Catholic Christianity)

- **Unit 5: Catholic Beliefs and Teachings.** You will study the foundational doctrines of the Catholic faith, including the Trinity, Creation, the Incarnation, and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus's death and resurrection. You will also investigate Catholic teachings on salvation, grace, and eschatology (heaven, hell, and purgatory). **Milestone: Unit 5 Assessment.**
- **Unit 6: Catholic Practices.** You will explore how Catholics express their faith through the seven sacraments, liturgical worship, prayer, and pilgrimage. You will also examine the global work of the Church, focusing on Catholic Social Teaching, evangelism, and charitable outreach to support those in need. **Milestone: Unit 6 Assessment.**