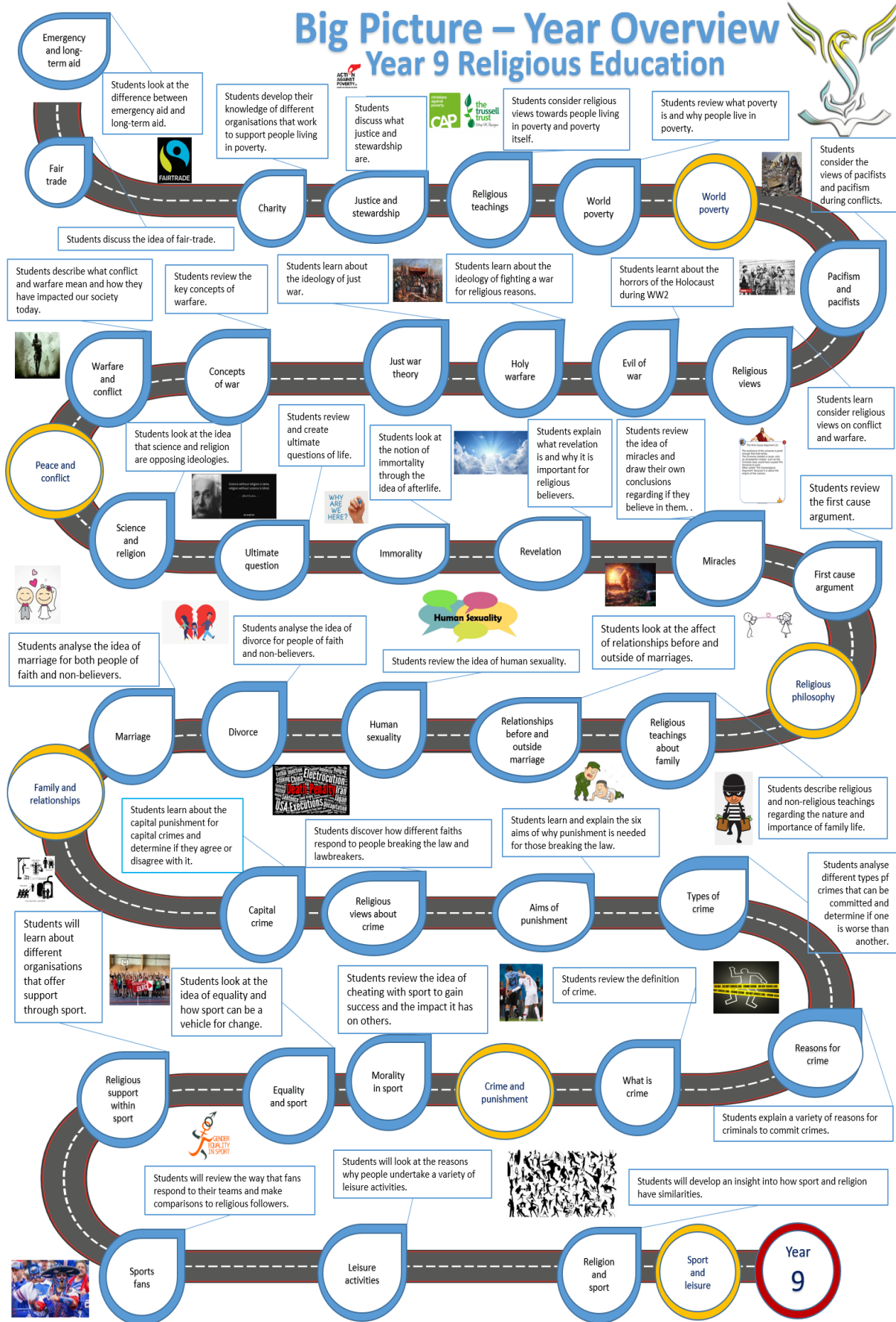


Big Picture – Year Overview Year 9 Religious Education



ZOOM IN... MY LEARNING JOURNEY:

Subject: RE Year: 9 Unit: 4

AIMS

- To introduce students to:
- Understanding what philosophy of religion is and why it is important.
 - Understand how different people try to prove the existence of God(s).
 - Build on previous skills including group discussion and essay writing.
 - Learn and develop knowledge and understanding of how and why relationships are so important.

DEVELOPING COURAGE

- C Writing, speaking and listening to others Using body language to help communication.
- O Freedom to speak safely in class without fear of failure.
- U Showing respect for others in the team and valuing their contributions.
- R Staying with a problem until it is resolved.
- A Monitoring performance and sharing in successes.
- G Taking on roles and responsibilities that support others in the learning environment.
- E Working in a positive atmosphere.

CAREERS

- Police officer
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Religious figurehead

UP NEXT

- Religion, peace and conflict.
- Pacifism.
- Holy warfare.
- Just war theory.

PREVIOUS LEARNING

- Pupils will have studied elements of these topics in year 7 & 8.
- Pupils should have a good base of knowledge of the six major world religions.

WHAT WE KNOW/REMEMBER

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-
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RECOMMENDED READING

- BBC Bitesize RE
- BBCTeach.com
- Seneca learning
- GCSE Pod

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

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Religious Philosophy

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>First Cause argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some theists would use the existence of the universe to prove the existence of God, they would argue that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Everything that exists was caused to exist ➢ The universe exists, so it too must have a cause ➢ There had to be something eternal that was not caused by anything ➢ The eternal first cause is God ➢ Therefore God exists. | <p>St Thomas Aquinas's First Cause argument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Thomas Aquinas was a Christian who lived in the Middle Ages • He believed that the universe had a beginning • He argued that as things cannot cause themselves to come into existence • The universe must have been caused to exist by something outside of the universe • He argued that God was the first cause and created the universe • Without God's intervention the universe would not exist and therefore we would not exist, therefore God is seen as the first cause. |
| <p><i>Many Christians believe that the First Cause argument is supported by the creation account in the book of Genesis in the Bible.</i></p> <p><i>The design argument is sometimes referred to as teleological argument.</i></p> <p><i>This comes from the Greek word teleos which means that there is an end or purpose to everything.</i></p> | <p>The design argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The universe is too ordered and complicated to have come about by random chance, therefore it must have been designed • A design needs a designer for religious believes this is God • For most Christians the Genesis account of creation supports this theory that the world was designed. |
| <p>Revelation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a religious believer a revelation occurs when something about God becomes visible or clear • For example the way in which God wants people to behave or the meaning of life • Buddhists do not believe in a God(s), therefore for them a revelation is something that leads to greater understanding of the nature of existence • Such as developed understanding of the three poisons and how they impact a persons life. | <p>Miracles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A miracle is often referred to as an event performed by God that appears to break the laws of nature • Some miracles involve things like healing the sick • Buddhists do not believe in a God, therefore they believe that everything happens through cause and effect, also known as karma • Miracles are often linked with a holy person or place thought to be holy by the religions followers. |



Religious Philosophy

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Immortality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immortality is the idea of endless life or existence Associated with the ideology of life after death or an afterlife.  | <p>William Shakespeare immortal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Shakespeare died in 1616, but is considered one of the best known Englishmen in the world His plays have been translated into all major world languages and have been performed more than those of any other playwright Many people would believe that he has lived on since his death through his plays and the scripts that he wrote.  | <p>Science and religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When we say something is true, we mean that we think it is right and that there is evidence to support our opinion The evidence can be either objective (based on fact) or subjective (based on personal opinion). |
| <p>Ways of being immortal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through a legacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legacy that someone leaves behind may serve as a reminder of their life, such as a building or statue. Through a memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people survive through the memories they create with loved ones. These fond recollections or items help people to remember them once they have passed away. | <p>Scientific truth</p> <p>Scientific truth is based upon the idea that something is thought about, observed, tested and then repeated to give the most reliable data and truth.</p>   | <p>Religious truth</p> <p>Religious truth is based upon Religious truth is based upon experience, belief, trust and faith which is coupled with the religious text for each religion.</p>  |
| <p>Ultimate questions</p> <p>Ultimate questions are questions that does not have an answer or where people cannot agree what the answer might be.</p> <p><i>Ultimate Questions</i></p> | | |

Let us consolidate

In 15 words or less say what you think the meaning of life is and why.

WAGOLL

Give to future generations through our own experiences, learning and wisdom on the nature of life.



Lesson 2 First Cause argument.

LI: To gain a better understanding of the theory of First Cause.

Task one- answer the following questions.

1. Do you think every action has a reaction in life?
 - For example, if you throw a stone in a pond of water, what happens?
2. Everything that exists was caused to exist.

DARTS –

St Thomas Aquinas developed the most popular argument as a 'way' of showing that there must be a God. Whilst this is not proof of the existence of God, it was seen as an argument that God is real. Aquinas argued that everything in the universe has a cause or a reason for occurring. If you track things back through a series of causes, there must have been a 'first cause' or a first event. He said that this 'first cause' is God, whom he described as a 'necessary being', everlasting and unequalled, existing outside of our space and time but also able to act within it, needing no explanation and having no cause.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



- Saint Thomas Aquinas was a Catholic Priest in the Dominican Order and one of the most important Medieval philosophers and theologians.
- He was immensely influenced by scholasticism and Aristotle and known for his synthesis of the two aforementioned traditions.
- Although he wrote many works of philosophy and theology throughout his life, his two monumental works are *Summa Theologica* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*. But his most influential work is the *Summa Theologica* that extensively discusses man which consists of three parts: God, Ethics and Christ.

First cause argument also known as The cosmological argument. DARTS

Strengths of the argument

Scientific discoveries, for example the Big Bang theory, can be seen to support the first cause argument. If God caused the 'Big Bang', then God is the 'first cause' that brought the cosmos (universe) into existence.

It confirms to the theist that there is purpose to the cosmos and a place for God as its 'creator'.



Weaknesses of the argument

- If the argument is based on the idea that everything has a cause, then this leaves open the question 'Who or what caused God?' To reply that God needs no explanation is not enough to prove God's existence.
- The Big Bang was not necessarily caused by God – it could have happened by chance.
- The argument is presented for believers and makes sense to them, but it is not convincing for the atheist or the agnostic.

Video to embed learning –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJH18VqdtTY>

Task two –

How does this relate to the creation story?

The story of creation, in the chapter Genesis, states that God created the world and everything within it in seven days

St Thomas Aquinas argument is that the first cause argument supports the idea of Genesis as God must caused it to happen.

1. Everything that exists was caused to exist
2. The universe exists, so it too must have a cause
3. There had to be something eternal (without a beginning or end) that was not caused by anything
4. The eternal first cause is God
5. Therefore God exists

Task three –

Lets challenge ourselves



| All | Most | Some |
|---|---|--|
| <p>'The existence of the universe proves that God exists'. Do you agree with this statement?</p> <p>Give reasons for your answer, showing that you can think of more than one point of view.</p> <p>I believe that the existence of the universe does / does not prove that God exists because...</p> | <p>'The First Cause argument is supported by creation stories'. Do you agree with this statement?</p> <p>Give reasons for your answer, showing that you can think of more than one point of view.</p> <p>I believe that the First Cause argument is / is not supported by creation stories because...</p> | <p>Explain in your own words what the First Cause argument is and give an example of the logic that Saint Thomas Aquinas used within the argument.</p> <p>The First Cause argument is...</p> |



Let us consolidate –

Give two reasons why the First Cause argument supports the idea that God exists.

Lesson 3 The design argument.

LI: To scrutinise the design argument for the existence of God.

Task one- Research what the design argument is. Use the DARTS to help you.

DARTS

William Paley's Design argument

DARTS



Who was William Paley?

William Paley, born 1743, was an English Anglican priest, philosopher and author of influential works on Christianity, ethics and science. One of his most well known pieces of work is the explanation in English theology of the teleological argument (Design argument) for the existence of God.

William Paley

- English philosopher and clergyman, 1743-1805.
- Reforming tendencies, 'progressive' in the Church and abolitionist (opposed to the slave trade).
- Author of *Natural Theology* (1802), his masterwork arguing for philosophical knowledge of God.



William/Paley's Design argument.

Paley's argument was that if we found a watch and we had never seen one before, the intricate nature of it with its miniature wheels, cogs and springs we would automatically think that it had been designed and put together in this way for the purpose of telling time. In the same way, if we look at the natural world and the workings of it, things are just right for their purpose. For example eye for sight, birds have wings for flight and fish have gills to breathe under water. He argued that all designs need a designer, in this instance he believed God was the designer.

The basic issues with the design theory.

The basic problem with this theory is that it depends on a person's faith and belief that everything in the world is designed and that the designer is God. Not everyone believes that humans are a result of design or that the world was designed. We cannot prove that the design theory or God is real, therefore there will be uncertainty.

Watchmaker analogy

If we found a watch on a heath, we would assume that it has some designer. By analogy, we could say the same of nature.

Nature displays purpose (e.g. birds have wings to fly) and regularity (e.g. planets orbit in regular motion). As with a watch, the attributes of purpose and regularity are suggestive of a designer.



Video to embed learning - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foeM6vXZCys&t=147s>

Tasks two – DARTS Key Questions –

- What do you think of William Paley's Design argument?
- Do you think that it could help to prove the existence of God?

Task three –

How would a theist (believer) explain the Design argument for the existence of God to an atheist (non-believer)?

Your task is to write a newspaper article that tries to explain why this theory proves the existence of God.

Things to consider;

- The rock vs watch idea
- The theory of design
- The idea that the world had a designer
- The unlikely nature that the world happened by chance
- Any information about the universe and how our planet is well placed to support life.

Lesson 4 Miracles as proof of the existence of God.

LI: To examine the argument of miracles as proof for the existence of God.

Task one- Do you believe there is a God? Explain your point of view.

Videos to support learning -

- Jesus turns water to wine - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaWI4-nOz_0
- Jesus feeds the 5000 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyXP-kQfooU>

Theists use the argument from miracles to prove the existence of God by arguing that

- There is no natural explanation for what has occurred
- Therefore it must be a super natural occurrence
- The miracle must have been caused by something outside of nature
- God is outside of nature, therefore it must be God's intervention
- Therefore God exists.

DARTS

Miracles as proof of God's existence.

DARTS

What is a miracle?

Theists (believers of God) use the term miracle to refer to an event performed by God that appears to break the laws of nature. It may be a cure for a terminal illness or disability that doctors cannot explain. It might be survival from certain death by a freak event. However, to be a miracle there needs to be some religious significance or purpose to the event; such as strengthening of faith or the demonstration of God's love.



Types of miracle

1. Events that break the laws of nature and cannot be explained by the sciences. For example Jesus was said to turn water into wine at a wedding ceremony.
2. Events in which no laws of nature are broken but a coincidence occurs at just the right time to cause a good outcome. This is believed to be God's presence and guiding hand.

Case study – Stairwell B, 11th September 2001

An event regarded by many occurred when sixteen people survived when the North Tower of the World Trade Centre collapsed after the terror attack on 9/11. They were trapped on stairwell B. One group of firefighters and a woman they were rescuing were buried in under half a million tons of debris, but amazingly survived to contact the outside world and eventually be rescued from the wreckage.

Another survivor on the twenty second floor when the building collapsed felt himself freefalling through space, two hours later he regained his consciousness on a slab of concrete one hundred and eighty feet below the twenty second floor and was rescued by firefighters. The fact that these people survived this action serves to suggest that miracles do occur.

Task two – DARTS key questions.

1. Do you think the 'miracle of stairwell B' could have been divine intervention / a miracle?
Explain your point of view.

I believe that the 'miracle of stairwell B' could have been / was not divine intervention because...

2. Do you believe in miracles explain your point of view?

I do or do not believe in miracles because...

Lesson 5 Religious experiences as proof of the existence of God.

LI: To examine the argument of religious experiences as proof for the existence of God.

Task one- What do you think a religious experience could be?

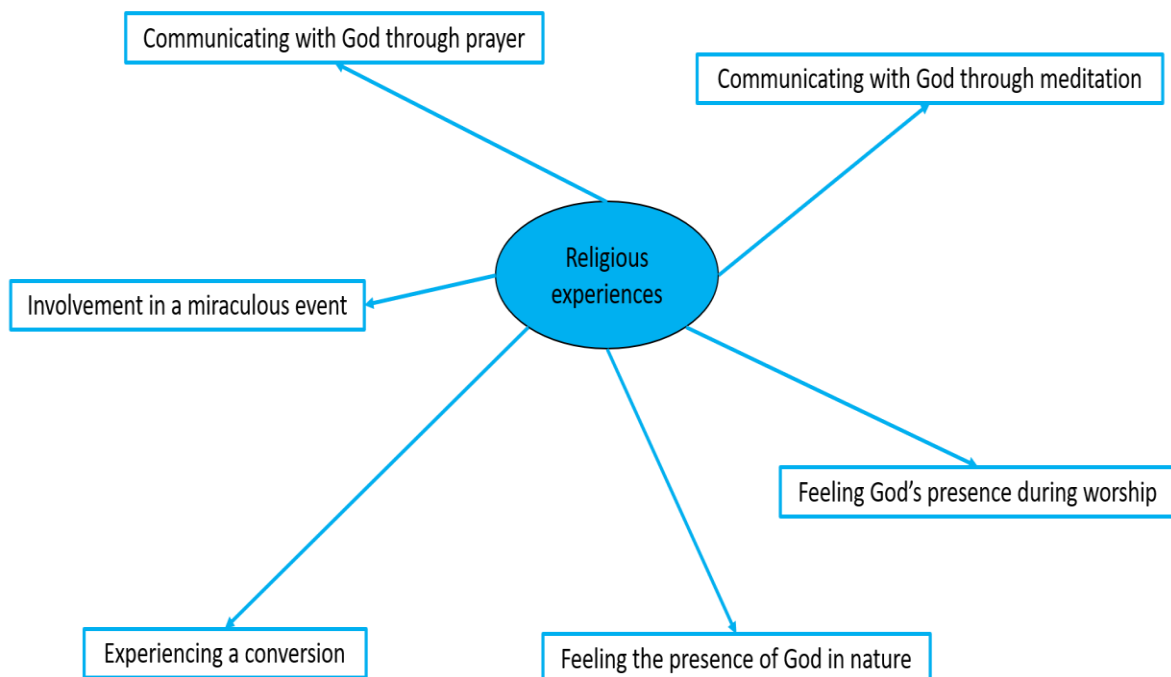
Videos to embed learning -

- (watch from start to 2 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj-qvJLI-Ck&t=224s>
- (Watch from 1.40 minutes to 4 miutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNmrlM4DI3U&t=36s>

Task two –

➤ Add in any you may have missed out (put them in using **blue pen**).



DARTS

Religious experiences as proof.

1) Communicating with God through Prayer and meditation.

Through prayer believers are not only speaking to God, but believe they are listening for God's reply. During such time some believers have said that they have felt God's presence and are in not doubt of God's existence. Similarly some worshippers use meditation and can also go on a 'retreat' where they remove themselves from everyday life and give their full attention to God.

3) Feeling God's presence in nature.

Some believers are convinced that they have felt the presence of God whilst walking in the countryside through feelings of awe and wonder through looking at the beautiful scenery.



5) Catholic Mass.

The Catholic Church celebrate the sacramental ritual of Holy Communion through a service they call Mass. Within this service the priest consecrates the bread and wine. For some Christians, this consecration of the bread and wine makes it become the body and blood of Christ. During the service of Mass, some believers think that Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin is repeated.



2) Feeling God's presence in worship.

Believers may feel that God is present during their worship. At this time worshippers dedicate themselves to God and praise and thank God for things, such as health of themselves or loved ones.

4) Experiencing a conversion.

Some non-believers or theists, believe that God has contacted them directly and, as a result, experience a conversion. This means that they convert to believe in God or change their beliefs about God. An early Christian, St Paul, was originally a Jew who wanted to kill Christians. On his way to a nearby city he had a religious experience that made him convert to become a Christian.

6) Pentecostal worship.

For Pentecostals, worship is a full-body, participatory engagement with God. The common hallmarks of Pentecostalism, such as speaking in tongues, spiritual healing, and miraculous signs, manifest God's presence as an embodied, participatory, ecstatic encounter with the Holy Spirit.

DARTS

Video to embed learning

- Moses sees the burning bush - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CAsqgDI63c>

Task three - DARTS key questions

1. **Why do you think that Christians might accept the conversion of St Paul from Judaism to Christianity as a genuine religious experience?**
 - *I think that some Christians might accept the conversion of St Paul from Judaism to Christianity as a religious experience because...*
2. **Do you think that a religious experience can be attained through nature or is that not realistic?**
 - *I agree / disagree with nature being seen as a potential religious experience because...*
3. **Do you think that the story of Moses can be told as proof for the existence of God?**
 - *I believe that the story of Moses can / can not be used to prove the existence of God because...*

Task four - Lets consolidate the lesson.

In 20 words or less say what a religious experience is.

WAGOLL

A religious experience is when someone feels they have had divine intervention or a personal experience with God.

Lesson 6 Morality as proof of the existence of God.

LI: To examine the idea of morality as proof for the existence of God.

Task one- What do you think morality is?

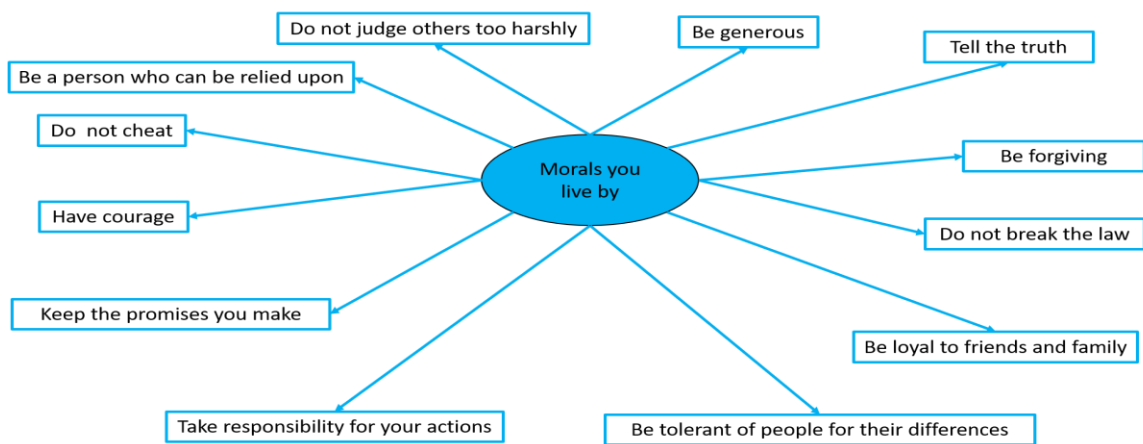
Task two – Research what morals are.

Task three - What morals do you live by? Create a mind map of different morals you try to live by.

Use my example to help but use your own ideas too. (minimum five morals you try to live by).

Task 3

➤ Add in any you may have missed out (put them in using **blue pen**).



Video to embed learning –

- What are morals? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WxOGR6HKFs>

DARTS

Morality as proof of God's existence.

1) What is morality?

Morality is a sense of right and wrong that helps to guide peoples choices and behaviours. A moral action is an action that is believed to be right according to the rules or laws of the society, country or religion in which a person lives.

3) The argument from morality for the existence of God.

Believers of faith often believe that the fact that we have this moral dilemma and a sense of right and wrong, can help to prove that God is real. Some people of faith would argue that our sense of right and wrong is 'built in' by God. This sense of right and wrong is unexplainable in its origin, so therefore it must be given to use by God, thus enabling them to believe that God exists.

4) What would you do?

A lady is diagnosed with cancer and she and her husband are told that she will only live for a few more months. The doctor tells them that there is a new treatment that would cure her, but it is very expensive and they cannot afford it. The man asks, if he could find the money, would she be given the treatment? The doctor says that only if he paid in full upfront, would they be able to undertake the treatment.

The man tries all he can to find the money, but he cannot raise the sum needed. One day he spots a back door open at a shop where employees were having lunch, he goes in and robs the shop for the amount he needs and goes and spends the money on his wife's treatment.

2) People have to make decisions all of the time about what is right and wrong. For some people, it is the consequence of an action that needs to be considered when deciding whether an action is right. For example, is it right to steal food to feed your family if you cannot afford to feed them as you have lost your job?



DARTS



Making Moral Decisions



DIPS – Key questions

1. What do you think about the moral decision the man made in the story?
2. Would you have done the same?
3. Would it be an easy decision?

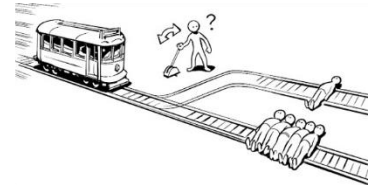


Stewards Academy

Task 4 - What would you do?

A train has lost control and you are able to divert the train, but what would you do in each of these situations?

1. You have to make a choice between five people and one person. What do you do?
2. The single man is 89 years old and the five people are in their 30's. What do you do?
3. The single man is in his 30's and the five people are all over 80 years old. What do you do?
4. The single person is a brain surgeon that is working on a cure for a big illness. The others you don't know what job they do. What do you do?
5. Two of the five people are medical students of the single doctor who he has been teaching to help stop the illness spreading. What do you do?



DIPS

Task 5 – GCSE style question



'The existence morality proves that there is a God'.

➤ Do you agree with this statement?

Within this answer you need to;

- Explain your opinion on the statement
 - In my opinion...
- Explain why some people may agree with the statement
 - Some people may agree with the statement because...
- Explain why some people may disagree with the statement
 - Some people may disagree with the statement because...
- Refer to religious arguments
 - Within the religion of... they believe...
- May refer to non-religious arguments
 - One non-religious argument could be...
- Reach a justified conclusion
 - In conclusion I believe that...

Challenge yourself

Lets consolidate



Write down three things you have learnt this half term.

1.
2.
3.

