

Theme 1 - Origins and Meaning

Intent

This is the first module taught in GCSE RE. It makes sense because in this module we intend to go right back to the beginning and investigate the 'big question' of how the universe was created and examine beliefs about a supreme being that brought everything into existence.

Many of the religions of the world have addressed these important questions and have explanations that set out their beliefs about the beginnings of the world. Christianity and Judaism are monotheistic traditions and are unified in the belief that there is One God who is responsible for all life.

We intend to focus on the origins of the universe, the world, human beings and the relationships between humans, the rest of creation and God.



Process

1. Creation Ex-Nihilo

We start at the beginning, explaining how God created the universe out of nothing and what God must be like because of this. We use **St Augustine** as a source of authority. His views are supported in the next topic.

2. Religious beliefs on the Origins of the Universe

We now move on to look at the **Genesis 1& 2** Creation stories and what they say about God as Creator, understanding how **Catholics, Christians and Jews** differ in their views about how to interpret the stories.

3. Non-religious views on the Origins of the Universe

Now we've studied the religious views, we are going to understand the **non-religious** scientific views of the creation of the universe e.g. Big Bang / Evolution. We will look at how **Catholics** respond to this.

4. Sanctity of Life

Using the **Catholic** response from the last topic, we are going to investigate the value of human life as made in the image of God, using **St Catherine of Siena** as our main source of authority. We will also understand **non-religious** views about the value of human life.

5. Religious and Non-Religious Views on Abortion

Following on from arguments on the **Sanctity of Life**, we now look to understand the **Catholic, Christian, Jewish and Humanist** views on abortion.

6. Creation Story in Genesis 1&2.

Having studied the Sanctity of Life and being created in the Image of God, we now look at other ideas we can understand about humans and God from the **Genesis 1&2** Creation stories.

Process

7. The relationship between Humans and the rest of creation

Now we know **Catholic** beliefs on the creation of the world and the importance of the Sanctity of Life, we now focus on **Catholic** beliefs surrounding how humans should treat the planet and why. We also explore the **Jewish and Humanist** views on this. **Laudato Si** and **Genesis 2** are our sources of authority.

8. Origins of Scripture and Literary Forms

Because we have studied **Genesis 1 and 2** in depth, we now move on to look at the rest of the Bible and how it is considered to be the Word of God. As with Genesis, we look at **Catholic, Fundamentalist and Jewish** interpretations of the Bible.

9. Michelangelo's Creation of Adam

Having studied beliefs about creation, humans and God, we now explore how these beliefs are expressed in **Michelangelo's Creation of Adam** painting. We look at Adam, God, the Hands and the Cloud and explore their meanings. **Genesis 2** is our source of authority for this.

10. Imagery in Christian Art

Because we focused on beliefs about Creation in the last topic, we now continue this by studying the 'Tree of Life' apse. We explore the belief that God is eternal, as well as the symbolism of the Garden of Eden.

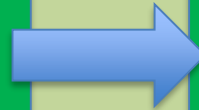
11. Imago Dei & Catholic Social Teaching

Now that we have covered the beliefs on **Imago Dei** and creation, we now focus on putting these beliefs into practice. We explore **Catholic Social Teaching, Justice, Peace and Reconciliation** as a response to being made in the image of God.

Process

12. Inter-Faith Dialogue

Following on from the last topic, we now focus on the role of **Inter-Faith Dialogue** in promoting understanding and tolerance between different religions and those with no faith, based on the belief that we are all made in the image of God.



13. The Work of Catholic Charities

Because we are made in the Image of God this impacts how we treat others, as shown in the last two topics. In this last topic, we focus on the work of two Catholic charities – **CAFOD and SVP** – and how they demonstrate love and service to their neighbour in the work they undertake. **Gaudium et Spes** and **Matthew's Gospel** are the sources of authority for this.



Impact

This process will enable the understanding of:

- What St Augustine wrote about creation from nothing.
- How to compare Catholic, Christian, Jewish and non-religious views on the origins of the universe and of human beings.
- How the concept of imago dei relates to the sanctity of human life and how this affects views on abortion from different religious and non-religious viewpoints.
- The relationship that should exist between humans and the rest of the plane and how to compare different religious and non-religious views on this.
- How artwork can express Catholic beliefs about creation, God and humans.
- How the concept of imago dei has influenced Catholic Social Teaching, Interfaith Dialogue and Catholic charity work.

Progress will be shown by:

- Formative assessment of past-exam question answers completed in class and at home, and improvements made from feedback.
- Formative assessment through the re-capping of previous modules and knowledge checks.
- Summative assessment through mid-module and end of module assessments based on past exams.