Year 9 - Worldviews - Does the idea of God make sense?

Key words	
atheist	someone that doesn't believe in a god.
empiricism	knowledge is gained through experience. (Aristotle)
evolution	Scientific theory for life developing small organisms over millions of years.
fallacy of composition	mistake of assuming that what is true for part of an idea is true for the whole idea.
free will	ability to make good or bad choices.
Holocaust/ Shoah	Killing of Jewish people under the Nazi regime in Germany during WWII
infinite regress	endless sequence of causes with no beginning.
logical fallacy	a statement that is logically wrong.
miracle	event that can't be explained naturally, an act of a god.
omnibenevolent	all-loving
omnipotent	all-powerful
omniscient	all-knowing
rationalism	knowledge is gained through reason. (Plato)
Summa Theologica	work of Thomas Aquinas to show it is reasonable to believe in God.

1. What are arguments for the existence of God?

Rene Descartes

First Certainty: 'I think; therefore I am': Descartes' realisation that the fact he thinks shows his mind must exist.

Trademark argument:
Descartes' argument that humans are born with the idea od God imprinted on their minds.

Problems: Not everyone believes in God. Our imaginations are sometimes better than reality. He does not prove a perfect God exists, simply that he can think of one.

Thomas Aquinas (Summa Theologica)

First Cause argument

3rd way from Summa Theologica.

1. Everything in the universe has a cause.

2. If everything in the universe has a cause, the universe itself must have a cause.

3. The cause of the universe must be God.

Problems: No answer for the cause of God. No proof that infinite regress does not exist. 'God' does not have to be the first cause. **David Hume** argues this is based on logical fallacy and calls this fallacy of composition.

Design (teleological) argument

5th way from Summa Theologica.

1.The world around us looks as if it has been designed.

2. Designed things need an intelligent designer.

3. The intelligent designer of the world is God.

Developed by **William Paley** using the example of a watch. **'Paley's Watch'**

Problems: David Hume argues anyone can be the designer—not just God.

Evolution: Charles Darwin—living things have changed over time not, some would argue intelligent design.

2. Is God involved in the world?

For believers God acts in ways we cannot understand. For **Christians** God was involved in the world as **Jesus,** many historians accept the existence of Jesus as a man, but not as God in human form.

Miracles such as being healed of an illness, with no natural explanation.

David Hume on Miracles: people are naturally fascinated by unusual things, no miracle has been seen by enough sensible, educated people to be true.

Answered prayers where they ask God for something and it then happening. **Response to answered prayers:** they are more likely to be coincidence, and not all prayers are answered so this is unfair.

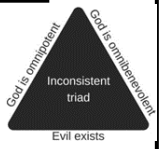
3. What do Freud and Marx say about religion?

Sigmund Freud - 19th/20th century Austrian psychologist. Claimed humans invent religion to satisfy their desires for a father, fairness and immortality. In his wish-fulfilment theory. *God is in the mind.*

Karl Marx - 19th century German philosopher. Claimed religion is the 'opium of the people', used by ruling classes to exploit and oppress the working class. *Religion is like a drug—addictive, painkilling & vision creating.*

4. What is the problem of evil?

The problem of evil is: God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent, but evil exists. Either God does not exist or he is not those things. Christians believe this is not the case and that evil could be a result of either:



Free Will

The Devil

Test of Faith

Punishment

Mystery

5. Does the idea of God make sense?

Paradox of omnipotence: God should be able to create a rock so heavy he cannot lift it & be able to lift anything - both these things can't exist. Some argue it means being *most powerful.*

Omniscience & free will: God being omniscient takes away human free will. God doesn't make our choices but knows how we will behave.

Omnibenevolence and suffering: How can suffering and evil exist if God is all-loving. Suffering is caused by humans and free will.

Apophatic theology: God can't be described by saying what he is but by saying what he isn't.

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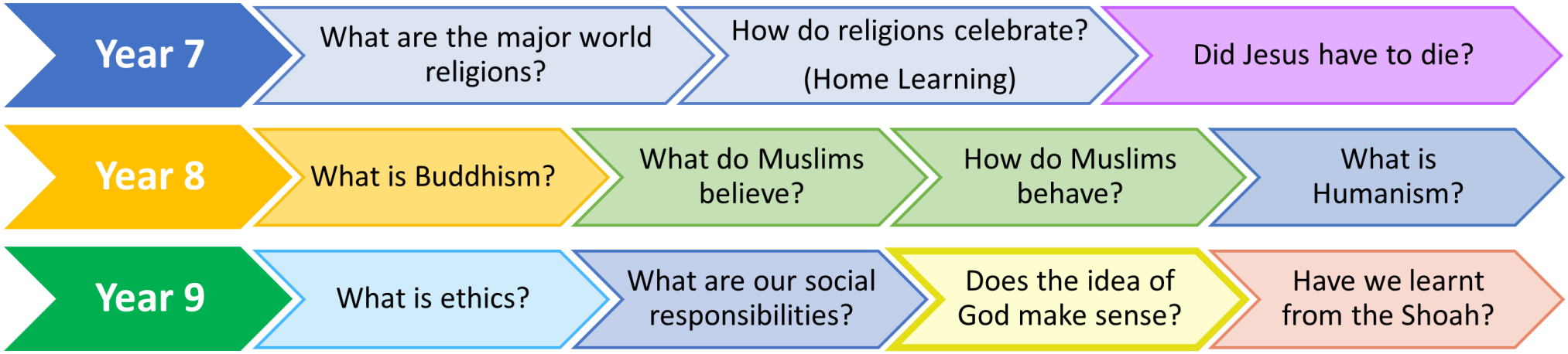
AIM: This unit of work is to allow you to develop your understanding of a Hindu worldview. You will begin to understand the basic beliefs of Hindu views about Brahman, the self, dharma (duty) and what sacred texts teach Hindus.
You will compare these beliefs to those you have already studied: **'Did Jesus have to die?', 'What is ethics?', 'What are the answers to life's big questions?'** and revisit them in the final unit: **'Have we learnt from the Shoah?'**



This knowledge organiser gives you the basic information for this unit. There are different ways that you can use your knowledge organiser - **you should not just copy from the knowledge organiser.**
Below are a range of activities you could do, you do not need to do them all. Select the things that you think will help you remember the information. Don't worry if one doesn't work, try a different way until you find an activity that works for you. Some activities are harder than others, chose one that challenges you, if you find one too hard try a different one.

- Use the 'Look, cover, write and check' strategy.
  - **Look:** Look at and read a section for a few minutes.
  - **Cover:** Cover that section/put away the sheet.
  - **Write:** Write anything you can remember from what you just read.
  - **Check:** Check what you have written then correct/add in anything missing.
  - **Repeat:** Repeat this with each section until you can remember it all.
- Write a basic recall quizzing questions. Leave it overnight and try to answer them the next day.
- Write yourself or a partner some quiz questions. Quiz each other or swop your questions to see if you can answer each other's questions.
- Write a letter/blog/article to someone explaining a key idea or concept.
- Get your parents/carers to test you.
- Create mind maps or flashcards.
- Create fact files for each key area.
- Summarise each section in your own words.
- Get sticky with your learning: write out key points from the KO as you read over it on post-it notes.
- Write your own challenging questions using the command words below then, write an answer for these questions.
  - **explain** (say why/how something is done)
  - **compare** (what do two or more things have in common/ different),
  - **evaluate** (weigh up positives and negatives, arguments for and against).
- Draw images and annotate/label them with extra information.
- Put the key words from your KO into new sentences.
- Give yourself spelling tests or keyword definition tests.
- Think about the big picture – why is knowing specific information important to you/other people/society/companies/science/technology?
- Think about the big picture – are there any links in the content on your KO to anything that you have watched on TV, read about or heard in the news?