

Resources Handbook

GCSE Religious Studies C (Religion and Belief in Today's World)

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies C: J622/J122

Unit B613: The Individual

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies C specification for teaching from September 2009.

Contents

Contents	2
Resources	3

Resources

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION C : RELIGION AND BELIEF IN TODAY'S WORLD Resources for Teaching

Unit B613: *The Individual*

The nature of the specification means that some materials may be useful for more than one section of the specification and in some cases other units for which the sources could be useful have also been noted.

It would be a good idea to compile a personal list of web sites, that can be used as exemplars for students. Such as some exemplar charities, both with and without religious associations, missionary organisations and campaign groups on particular issues. This enables teachers to select examples that they are familiar with, or that they feel will hold particular interest for their classes.

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.truthpizza.org/nature.htm http://www.elroy.net/ehr/basicassumption.html http://atheism.about.com/od/philosophyepistemology/Epistemology_Introduction_Understanding_Truth_Knowledge_Belief.htm http://www.carm.org/relativism/whatistruth.htm	B613: <i>The Individual</i> The Nature of Truth	<i>A selection of summaries, useful for the non-philosophy teacher, on different types of truth claim.</i>
http://www.whatistruth.org.uk/index.php	B613: <i>The Individual</i> The Nature of Truth May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.	<i>A site considering the question posed by Pilate about the nature of truth and answering it from a Christian perspective.</i>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.religioustolerance.org/retrue.htm	B613: The Individual The Nature of Truth	<i>An interesting article about assessing the claims of different religions to be 'the truth'. A good question to discuss with students. As always with this site there is a lot of advertising.</i>
http://scienceandreligion.com/intro.htm	B613: The Individual The Nature of Truth Seeking the Truth Mysticism May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.	<i>An interesting, although not especially easy to read site, exploring areas of interest to both science and religion. The type is generally very small and the layout not especially easy on the eye but there is some useful and interesting content, which you may be able to give directly to students.</i>
http://www.cultinformation.org.uk/home.html	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism and Cults B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements - cults	<i>A range of information about cults, including groups of specific current concern, ways to identify cults and a small database of articles relating to cults.</i>
http://www.religioustolerance.org/cultmenu.htm	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism and Cults B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements - cults	<i>Links to the Religioustolerance.org cults and new religious movements database. This site has lots of useful articles, is fully searchable and gives good overviews of the faiths it covers. It is heavily packed with advertising though.</i>
http://www.howcultswork.com/	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism and Cults B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements - cults	<i>Interesting overview about the mechanisms by which cults operate. Could enable students to have focussed discussion on whether particular groups deserve their 'cult' label.</i>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamentalism	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism	<i>An introduction to the concept of fundamentalism. As with all 'wiki' sites this is member edited and so should not be used as a sole source.</i>
http://www.religioustolerance.org/reac_ter9.htm	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism	<i>An article discussing the use of the term 'fundamentalism' in a Christian and Muslim context. Could be interesting for more able students who will be aware that it is not an equally appropriate term for all religions.</i>
http://www.bidstrup.com/religion.htm	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism	<i>An article that denounces fundamentalism as wrong, this article is interesting in that it is arguing from a religious perspective that fundamentalism is undermining and limiting to God. The article is probably a bit challenging to give directly to students but some interesting discussion points can be taken from it.</i>
http://wwrn.org/index.php	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism <i>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</i>	<i>This site is a good source of general news stories with a religious focus; it is worth checking for stories specifically to do with religious fundamentalism on this and other news sites. Sources of the stories vary and you may need to be selective if intending to make them accessible directly to students.</i>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientism	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism	<i>An article considering 'scientism' or scientific fundamentalism; a useful area for discussion. As with all 'wiki' sites this is member edited. This one currently has a 'disputed accuracy' notice on it, which seems to be at least in part because this is a controversial area. The accuracy question itself is one that could be pursued by more able students.</i>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_terrorism	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism – extremism and terrorism	<i>An overview of religious terrorism as a concept with links to other wiki articles on specific religious groups. As with all 'wiki' sites this is member edited and should not be used as a sole source.</i>

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http://terrorism.about.com/od/politicalislamterrorism/tp/Religious-terrorism.htm	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism – extremism and terrorism	<i>Gives very brief information about terrorism within the worlds major religions. Probably best used as a source for further searches as it has some good links.</i>
http://www.terrorism-research.com/	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism – extremism and terrorism	<i>General information on the definition of terrorism, terrorist strategies etc.</i>
https://www.cfi.org.uk/index.php	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism Interfaith relations	<i>One of a range of 'Friends of Israel' sites, offering thoughts on the situation in Gaza and between Israel and Palestine. A good example of reactions of interfaith and political conflicts in the world.</i>
http://www.csw.org.uk/portal.htm	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism Interfaith relations	<i>Site is for 'Christian Solidarity Worldwide' but it focuses on religious freedoms.</i>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>An overview of mysticism as a concept with links to other wiki articles. As with all 'wiki' sites this is member edited and should not be used as a sole source.</i>
http://www.religiousworlds.com/mystic/index.html	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>A searchable reference and links page, with access to a range of resources on mysticism. Some of the links may be more suitable than others.</i>
http://www.age-of-the-sage.org/mysticism/index.html	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>An index page with links to pages of mysticism from a range of world faiths. Sikhism is not covered by this site</i>
http://christianmystics.com/	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>A site dedicated to Christian Mysticism, modern and historical. The site includes a library of articles on mysticism.</i>
http://www.jewfaq.org/kabbalah.htm	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth- mysticism	<i>An academic article, with some links to further reading, on Jewish mysticism. The article is probably not accessible directly by students.</i>
http://www.digital-brilliance.com/kab/faq.htm	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth - mysticism	<i>A question and answer page about Jewish Kabbalah</i>
http://www.sikhmysticism.org/	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>An small introductory site on Sikh mysticism, primarily discusses mystical passages of the Guru Granth Sahib.</i>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.purifymind.com/BuddhismMysticism.htm	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>Short article giving an introduction to mysticism within Buddhism</i>
http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/tvtk/ch24.htm	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>A question and answer page on mysticism in Islam. Not a huge amount of detail,</i>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/subdivisions/sufism_1.shtml	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth – mysticism	<i>An overview of Sufism, the mystical path within Islam.</i>
http://www.iona.org.uk/ http://www.iskcon.org.uk/ http://www.cittaviveka.org/ http://www.benedictinenuns.org.uk/	B613: The Individual Seeking the truth –the Religious Life May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.	<i>A selection of sites focussing on religious groups living in community. It should be noted that there are many more examples available. Not all the religions covered by the specification include a monastic element and, if applicable students should be aware of why these religions that do not follow this type of tradition.</i>
http://www.interfaith.org.uk/	B613: The Individual Sharing the truth – interfaith relations	<i>The homepage of the interfaith network, including information on member groups, work that is being done to promote interfaith relations and news in this field.</i>
http://www.theinterfaithseminary.com/	B613: The Individual Sharing the truth – interfaith relations	<i>A non-specific ministry, offering to conduct weddings, funerals and other ceremonies for people of multifaith or no faith backgrounds. Gives an interesting perspective on interfaith and multifaith work.</i>
http://www.interfaithmarriage.org.uk/	B613: The Individual Sharing the truth – interfaith relations Religion and the family	<i>A site set up by an interfaith couple to provide help and advice to similar couples seeking marriage. It includes information on the law, family and community relations and faith identity.</i>

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http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/nationals/forced-marriage-unit/ http://www.forcedmarriage.nhs.uk/ http://www.youthinformation.com/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=90221 http://marriage.about.com/od/arrangedmarriages/Arranged_Marriages.htm http://www.pardesiservices.com/tradition/arrangedmarq.asp	<p>B613: The Individual Religion and the family</p> <p>B614: Community Cohesion and the Individual Human Rights</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p><i>A selection of sites on forced and arranged marriages; some of them have links to other information that may also be useful.</i></p> <p><i>There is also a lot of materials in news site archives about arranged and forced marriage.</i></p>
http://www.islam4uk.com/ http://www.hinducounciluk.org/newsite/index.asp http://www.sikhs.org.uk/default.aspx http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/ http://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/ http://www.christianityonline.co.uk/	<p>B613: The Individual Claims by family and community Religious and cultural rules and norms</p> <p>B614: Community Cohesion and the Individual Universal values Citizenship Responsibilities and duties in the wider world</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p><i>A selection of faith related sites with a focus on the community of that faith in the UK. This is only a small sample, selected to illustrate what is available in this area. It will be worth investigating different denominations and following links within these sites. Many towns and cities will have their own organisations for the local faith communities.</i></p>
http://www.sacredsites.com/	<p>B613: The Individual Attitudes to sacred places</p>	<p><i>An exploration of different sacred sites around the world, searchable by continent. Includes photographs and articles. Focus is more historical than religious but contains some interesting background information</i></p>
http://www.sacred-destinations.com/	<p>B613: The Individual Attitudes to sacred places</p>	<p><i>Essentially a site to help you plan trips and pilgrimages but with lots of information about sacred sites around the world.</i></p>

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<p>http://www.angelfire.com/d20/sikh-youth/sikhwebmain/SIKHYOUTHWEBSITE.htm</p> <p>http://www.hyuk.org.uk/</p> <p>http://judaism.about.com/od/jewishyouth/Jewish_Teens.htm</p> <p>http://www.youthwork.co.uk/</p> <p>http://www.muslimyouth.net/</p> <p>http://www.religiousyouthservice.org/home.php</p>	<p>B613: The Individual Young people and religion Claims by family and community</p> <p>B614:Community Cohesion and the Individual Universal values Citizenship Responsibilities and duties in the wider world</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p><i>A selection of youth focussed sites within different faith traditions. There may be content not directly related to the knowledge requirements of the specification but awareness of youth activities and organisations could provide students with useful insights into the impact of faith on individual lives.</i></p> <p><i>Many towns and cities will have their own youth groups, organised by the local faith communities.</i></p>

ON THE BOOKSHELF		
Publication	Relevance to Specification	Notes and comments
<p>The Atlas of Religion <i>Joanne O'Brien and Martin Palmer</i> University of California Press</p>	<p>B613: the Individual Fundamentalism and religious conflicts Religion and Community Sacred places Human Rights</p>	<p><i>The book consists of series of world maps, colour-coded and marked with symbols to illustrate different areas of interest relating to religion around the world. A good visual resource, suitable for teacher research and use with students.</i></p>
<p>Fundamentalism: a Very Short Introduction <i>Malise Ruthven</i> Oxford University Press</p>	<p>B613: the Individual Fundamentalism</p>	<p><i>This is part of an ever-growing series, aiming to give an overview on a range of different subjects. The books are small but the text is quite dense, probably not suitable for giving directly to students.</i></p>
<p>Girls of Riyadh <i>Ranja Alsanea</i> Penguin</p> <p>Does my Head Look Big in this? <i>Randa Abdel-Fattah</i> Orchard Books</p> <p>From Somalia with Love <i>Na'ima B Robert</i> Frances Lincoln Books</p> <p>Bend it Like Beckham <i>Narinder Dhami</i> Hodder Childrens Books</p> <p>Anita and Me <i>Meera Syal</i> Flamingo</p>	<p>B613: The Individual Young people and religion Claims by family and community</p>	<p><i>These are novels which explore some of the issues arising between young people experiencing the demands of both British and other cultural traditions.</i></p> <p><i>This is a small sample of the many out there; a lot of novels of this type are written specifically for teen-readers and sections from them could easily be used in the classroom providing a different 'way in' to some of the issues.</i></p> <p><i>Many novels are also made into films which could be shown, in whole or in part.</i></p>

Publication	Relevance to Specification	Notes and comments
Philosophy for Dummies <i>Tom Morris</i> Wiley	B613: The Individual The Nature of Truth	<i>An introduction to philosophical ideas of truth. While the specification does not require students to be academic philosophers the idea of truth as a relative concept is an important one when studying different religious responses to the same questions.</i> <i>This will give non-philosophy teachers more confidence dealing with the subject in the classroom.</i>
Framework RE 1 <i>Anne Keast and John Keast</i> Hodder Murray	B613: The Individual The Nature of Truth Claims of Family and Community	<i>These text books are written for Key Stage 3 pupils but the ideas in them could be adapted for Key Stage 4. Relevant units include why people are religious and how religious beliefs affect attitudes.</i>
Framework RE 2 <i>Steve Clarke</i> Hodder Murray	B613: The Individual The Nature of Truth	<i>These text books are written for Key Stage 3 pupils but the ideas in them could be adapted for Key Stage 4. The units cover questions about religion, truth and authority and the impact of belief on human behaviour in an accessible manner.</i>
Framework RE3 <i>Joy Wright</i> Hodder Murray	B613: The Individual Fundamentalism Claims of Family and Community	<i>These text books are written for Key Stage 3 pupils but the ideas in them could be adapted for Key Stage 4. Relevant units include the impact of religion on community and the affects of religious belief on peace and conflict.</i>