

**Key Learning Objectives:**

**By the end of this unit I will:**

- Be able to show an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews on individuals, communities and societies
- Be aware of how varied experiences and interpretations of sources of authority may lead to diversity within society
- Develop my ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured arguments that demonstrate my depth and breadth of understanding

**Key Facts to LEARN:**

There are two types of jihad, which means “struggle”; greater jihad is trying to live a good Muslim life, lesser jihad is defending other Muslims and/or Islam itself, in line with Islamic “Just War” criteria, which are very similar to Christian criteria.

Some Christians say that bad things happen because when humans first disobeyed God, the natural world and humans were damaged, and Jesus’ death enables Christians to seek forgiveness for their sins and their sinful nature. Other Christians say that bad things happen so that humans can develop, to become more God-like.

Asylum seekers ask governments to officially class them as refugees. Therefore, they cannot be illegal immigrants.

Usually, extremist groups seek out disaffected young people who feel they don’t fit with the family or society they live in, and who may well find a sense of belonging in that group.

Newspapers and some TV channels aim their content towards certain groups in society. They have their own “narrative”. Most newspapers support a particular political party and their writing reflects this.

**How will my LEARNING be assessed?**

- Through teachers’ questioning
- Through responses to Do it Now!

**How can parents support my LEARNING?**

- Encourage your child to read big news stories in local and national newspapers
- Discuss topical issues with your child, asking them what they think is right or wrong about those issues
- Ask your child how they might apply the Golden Rule

**Links/Extension opportunities:**

[bbc.co.uk/news](http://bbc.co.uk/news)

[truetube.co.uk](http://truetube.co.uk)

[fullfact.org](http://fullfact.org)

[interfaith.org.uk](http://interfaith.org.uk)

**Key Terminology:**

knowledge	Understanding of a subject that you get by experience or study	tolerance	Willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs that are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them
migration	Travelling to a different place	media	Methods or ways of expressing something
extremism	Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable	design argument	An argument for an intelligent creator of the universe based on the suggestion that there’s evidence of deliberate design in nature
theodicy	Explaining how God can exist when there’s evil in the world	first cause argument	An argument for God based on the idea that everything has a cause, including the universe, and that the universe’s cause is God

Area	Content
Human value	Exploring why some humans do and say negative things about other humans in different groups; how can we enable ourselves and others to consider or accept other ways of living whilst maintaining our integrity? Why is the media so important when considering these issues?
Where was God?	Most people on Earth hold a religious or religious-type belief. If there's a god or gods, what does our world tell us about it or them...? How have people tried to prove the existence of God? How can we know there's a "God"? How can we know anything in the first place?!

Key people/groups	
Extremist groups	They appeal to a sense of national or cultural identity to recruit members and justify extreme acts and views.
The media	While many accuse media outlets of bias, the media's ability to accurately inform and bring people together is as strong as ever.
UN	The UN, through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, encourages governments to be continually aware of the need to allow and maintain basic ideas of freedom.
William Paley	One of the philosophers who argued that the natural world shows evidence of design, and therefore a designer (God).
John Hick	A philosopher who said that God's creation of humans is "unfinished business" and we can't become fully good without experiencing bad things.
The Inter Faith Network for the UK	This group aims to help people understand different faiths and beliefs, and how people who belong to those ways of life contribute to UK society.

Themes
immigration
fake news
extremism
free speech
free will
human nature

Vocabulary
moral
immoral
amoral
society
right
wrong
worldview
just
unjust
Shoah
UDHR
belief
believe
jihad
love
equality
neighbour
citizen
rights
dignity

Contexts
Even though more people are not Christian than ever before in the UK, most people support the UK's laws, which mainly have a religious basis. The 2011 census shows that the majority of people in the UK have a religious-type belief of some kind.
The Holocaust is seen by many as a pivotal moment for many Jews and Judaism itself. Around half of the world's Jews were murdered, leading many Jews to question the idea of them being God's "chosen" people.
The start of the economic recession, in 2008, came not long after 12 countries joined the EU, which enabled their citizens to seek work in existing member states (and vice versa). Large numbers of people began to migrate within the EU, looking for jobs.
In the field of philosophy, the first half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century saw a renewed interest in discussing the existence of God. This came at a time of great conflict, when many people were searching for answers to the question of how so many bad things could happen across the world.
The use of the word "Islamist" relates to the concept of "Islamization", a tactic first used by extremist groups in the Middle East during the second half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. In order to justify their attempts to overthrow governments, these groups claimed that culture and traditions, including Islam, were being destroyed. They used religion as a tool for their own ends.

