

**DAN BEGINNERS SAMPLE CURRICULUM
YR 7 RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY – A 5-STRANDS MODEL**

YEAR 7	Biblical/church tradition	World Religions	Philosophy	Ethics	Reflective Stillness	Additional Teaching & Assessment Tools included on DVD available for purchase
Topic 1:1	Concepts of Revelation	<i>Framework for making sense of the Spiritual Dimension</i>	-Is there a spiritual realm? -Why are we here? -Is there a God? -Is there life after death? -The nature of prayer -What is ultimate reality?	How should we live?		* Revelation Mind Maps * Student Exercise, <i>Concept of Revelation</i> (in lesson plan)
Topic 1:2	Geographical reach of Christianity	<i>Mapping World Religions</i>				
Topic 1:3	<i>Concepts of Incarnation & Trinity</i>		Ontological Realism: Who was Jesus?			* Teacher Notes, <i>Jesus</i>
Topic 2:1-5	<i>Details of Jesus Life & Death</i>	Roman Religion/Judaism				* Student Exercise to accompany <i>The Miracle Maker</i> DVD
Topic 3:1-2	<i>Why believe Jesus was God?</i>	Other views of Jesus: - a moral teacher? (Judaism/secular humanism) -a prophet of God? (Islam) -a spirit-filled superman (Gnosticism)	-What do people mean by God? -Nature of belief/evidence -Contested worldviews (epistemic relativism)			* Student Exercise, C.S Lewis Quote & Question on <i>The Nature of Jesus</i> (in lesson plan)
Topic 4:1-3	<i>Jesus as Teacher</i>		Symbolism in Jesus' teaching	Morality as human flourishing		
Topic 5:1-4	<i>Jesus as Saviour</i>	Jesus as a Jew/Concept of Messiah Salvation in other religious traditions	The Problem of Evil/Free Will Defence	Understanding Sin	Reflection on Levinas quote	* Teacher Notes PPT: <i>The Narnia Stories and Salvation</i>
Topic 6:1-7	<i>Gospels/Portraits of Jesus</i>		-What is Truth? -Perspectives in Writing			* DVD: <i>Teaching Religion and Values through Art</i> , Vardy, Arliss and Kirk (Wombat Education Ltd)
Stand Alone Unit, <i>The Magician's Nephew</i>		Characteristics of living a religious life	Professor's syllogisms/logic	-Creation and the responsibility of being created -Living for self/others -Right/Wrong -Obedience/Freedom -Forgiveness -Edmund's 'fall'		* Unit of Work: C.S. Lewis, <i>'The Magician's Nephew'</i>

YEAR 8	Biblical/church tradition	World Religions	Philosophy	Ethics	Reflective Stillness	Teaching & Assessment Tools & Additional Notes
Topic 1:1	Concepts of Revelation (Review)	<i>Framework for making sense of the Spiritual Dimension</i>	-Is there a spiritual realm? -Why are we here? -Is there a God? -Is there life after death? -The nature of prayer -What is ultimate reality?	How should we live?		* Revelation Mind Maps
Topic 2:1-3	<i>Overview of Biblical Story</i>	-Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures -Authority/Tradition -Sacred/Popular texts -How to 'read' sacred Scriptures				* Journal Article, <i>Teaching the Bible</i> , # 21 <i>Dialogue Australasia</i> * Lesson Plan, <i>Concept of Sacred Text/Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures</i> * Conference Paper, <i>Truth in the Bible</i>
Topic 3: Origins of the Universe: Creation and Science (6 lessons)						
3:1-2		- <i>Introduction to Myth</i> - <i>Creation stories</i>				* Extract from Karen Armstrong, <i>A Short History of Myth</i> * Teacher Notes: <i>Creation Myths</i> (includes student exercise on <i>Creation</i>) * Extract from Bruce Chatwin, <i>Songlines</i>
3:3-4	<i>Biblical creation stories, Genesis 1 +2</i>	Creation stories in other traditions	Philosophical issues in science/religion	Ecological implications of creation	Levinas: responsibility of being a 'creature'	* Teacher Notes: <i>Contextualist details for Creation stories</i>
3:5			<i>Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God</i>	Can we be good without God?		* Unit of work, <i>Does God Exist?</i> by Dominic Hodnett * CD: <i>Teaching Philosophy of Religion</i> , Peter Vardy (available for purchase via DAN)
3:6	<i>The Fall</i>	Fallenness in other traditions	The Nature of Evil	Relationship between humans and nature		* Teacher Notes, <i>The Fall and Salvation</i>
Topic 4:1-7	<i>The Covenant: Abraham to Moses</i>	-Abrahamic Religions -Old and New Covenant	Polytheism Monotheism Revelation	The 10 Commandments Gods of the 21 st Century	Reflection, <i>Where have I come from? Where am I going?</i>	* Student Exercise, <i>The Covenant Form</i> * Teacher Notes, <i>The Ten Commandments – The Laws of Living</i>
Topics 5:1-3	<i>Kings – Formation of Israel</i>			Power & Corruption		* Student Exercise: <i>Who or what is your God?</i> (in notes) * Teachers Notes, <i>Judges and Kings</i>
Topic 6:1-3	<i>Prophets</i>	Muhammad as prophet	Concept of prophet/voices of warning	Modern prophets		* Teachers Notes, <i>The Prophets</i> * Student Notes and exercises, <i>True & False</i>

						<i>Prophets, Nick Coleman</i>
Topic 7:1-3	<i>Psalms & Wisdom Literature</i>	Wisdom in other traditions	Philosophical Wisdom	Being wise	Music/song and spirit	* Student Exercise on <i>Spirit</i> * Conference Paper, <i>What is Philosophy and how might it be incorporated into education?</i>

YEAR 9	Biblical/church tradition	World Religions	Philosophy	Ethics	Reflective Stillness	Teaching & Assessment Tools & Additional Notes
Topic 1:1		<i>Introduction to World Religions</i>	Worldviews			* Student Exercise, <i>Religions of the World</i> * Trident Diagram
Topic 2:1-3			<i>What is it to be human?</i>			* Student Exercise, <i>Spirit</i>
Topic 3:1-4		<i>Hinduism</i>	Polytheism Monotheism			*Student Exercise, <i>Hinduism Short Story</i> (in notes) *Article, <i>Presenting Hinduism in a Hindu Mould</i>
Topic 4:1-4	Atonement/Salvation/ Forgiveness	<i>Judaism</i>		Relationship with the Good		*Teacher Notes, <i>Framing an Introductory lesson on Judaism</i>
Topic 5: 1-3		<i>Buddhism</i>	Enlightenment/Wisdom	Rules for right living	Meditation and Mindfulness	*Student Notes, <i>Buddhism</i> , Nicolas Coleman
Topic 6:1-4		<i>Islam</i>		-A God shaped pattern for living -Transcending the selfish nature		* Teacher Notes and Exercises PPT, <i>A Design for Life</i> , Dylan Bartlett
Topic 7:1-3		<i>Christianity</i>				*Student Exercise, <i>Webquest on Church History</i>
Topic 8:1		Other Gods?	<i>Truth in World Religions</i>	-Good/evil -Heaven/Hell		* Teacher Notes PPT, <i>Truth in World Religions</i> , Peter Vardy
Topic 9:1-2	Resurrection	Reincarnation	<i>Life After Death</i>	What kind of being am I?	Who am I? What do I want to become?	*Student Exercise, <i>Life and Death (in notes)</i> *Student Exercise, <i>Age of Meaningless</i> (and accompanying article by Rufus Black, <i>The Age</i> , 1999)
Stand Alone Unit, <i>The Last Battle</i>			-Religious Epistemology -Nature of Faith	-Spiritual Life & Death -What is reality and how should I live?		* Unit of Work, C.S Lewis, <i>The Last Battle</i>

ADDITIONAL PHILOSOPHY TOPIC:

In addition to the philosophy incorporated in the Religion Curriculum, students in each year level complete one assessment task/semester on a philosophical topic. Topics include:

- The nature of mind (Relationship between mind/body, computers as 'thinkers')
- Nature of knowledge
- Philosophy of technology
- Truth and lies (Student exercise and article on CD)
- Meaning and meaninglessness (Student exercise and article on CD)

GAPS IN YR 7-9 CURRICULUM

- Religion and the Arts (see *Teaching Religion and Values through Art CD*, Vardy, Arliss and Kirk, Wombat Education Ltd)
- Spirituality and Sexuality
- Traditional questions in Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for and against the existence of God, religious language, Evil and Suffering (see *Looking for God*, R Kirkwood, Longman 1987, *Looking for Proof of God*, R. Kirkwood, Longman 1990, *If I were God I'd say sorry*, R. Kirkwood, Hodder & Stoughton, 1995)
- Philosophers/thinkers and Worldviews (see *Spectator's Guide to Worldviews*, Simon Smart, Bluebottle Books 2007, + CD)
- and no doubt many more....!

It is hoped that in time units of work might be developed to support the additional philosophy topics and gaps in the Beginners Curriculum. The DAN EO would be delighted to receive any feedback, suggestions and offers to contribute units of work! Email: dan@dialogueaustralasia.org