

## Developing your subject knowledge for teaching secondary Religious Education

This is for people who are planning to train to be an RE Teacher, or for teachers with other specialisms who are looking to teach RE. Below is a menu (rather than a prescription) of resources for you to select from. They have been separated into sections to help you. Each section includes a range of resources. Those listed first are more accessible and those further down the list are more detailed. This list is not exhaustive but should provide you with a good introduction using reliable sources.

If you are on an ITT course your provider will give you a subject knowledge audit and help you track the development of your knowledge across your training year. In this situation the resources listed can be used to support and guide that development.

We thank Karen Steele for providing this comprehensive list of resources to develop subject knowledge. Whilst they have been written from an English context there is much that will be useful across the four nations.

### Tips

- **Complete the subject knowledge audit (see download on webpage [www.reonline.org.uk/initial-teacher-training/subject-knowledge-enhancement-resources/](http://www.reonline.org.uk/initial-teacher-training/subject-knowledge-enhancement-resources/) )** and use this to prioritise. Use the resource lists below to select the resources that will help you to fill the gaps in your knowledge. You can judge if you need to begin with the more simple resources, or need the more advanced one.
- **Keep a record/ journal to record your progress** (trainee teachers will be required to show the development of their subject knowledge, so this will be really helpful)
- **Look at GCSE/ A-level specification and examination materials** (more guidance below)
- **Subscribe to the [REOnline newsletter](#)**
- **Subscribe to the [Religion Media Centre news bulletins](#) here:**
- **[Join the National Association of RE Teachers \(NATRE\)](#)** - there is a student subscription - to get the latest news and access to resources.
- **If you are in Scotland you will also want to [join STARME](#)**

### Introduction to the subject

Culham St Gabriel's Short Courses Start with the introductory courses and move on to the Digging Deeper modules if appropriate:

- [Introducing a religion and worldviews approach](#)
- [Introduction to subject knowledge](#)

The Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Learning hub The following courses and videos may be of particular help:

- [Introducing the Philosophy of Religion](#)
- [An education in religion and worldviews](#)
- [Why not 'World Religions'?](#)
- [Religion, Faith, Spirituality and Worldviews? Short video](#)

Future Learn: [Why Religion Matters: Religious Literacy, Culture and Diversity](#)

Alison Courses:

- [Introduction to Theology and Religious Studies](#)
- [Comparative Study of Religion](#)
- [An Introduction to Philosophy](#)

Reading

- Holloway, R (2016) *A Little History of Religion*
- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*



## Buddhism

### Video Resources

- *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction* by Damien Keown [short video](#)
- *TrueTube: The enlightenment of the Buddha* [short video](#)
- *TrueTube: Holy Cribs The Vihara*

### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 8

### Websites

*RE Online:* [Buddhist Worldviews essays and links](#)

### Podcasts

*The RE Podcast:* S1 E8 [The One With The Middle Way](#)

*The RE Podcast:* S7 E12 [The One About Decolonising Buddhism](#)

## Christianity

### Video Resources

- *TrueTube: A Portrait of Jesus*
- *TrueTube: Church History in ten minutes video*
- *TrueTube: The Bible in Ten Minutes video*
- *TrueTube: Understanding Denominations Christianity*

### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 9

### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast:* S6 E7 [The One About The Bible](#)
- *The RE Podcast:* S9 E1 [The One about Orthodoxy](#)
- *The RE Podcast:* S14 E11 [The One About Pentecostalism and the Charismatic Movement](#)

### Websites

*RE Online:* [Christian worldviews essays and links](#)

## Hindu Dharma

### Video Resources

- *Cogito: Hinduism Explained video*
- *TrueTube: Holy Cribs The Mandir*

### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 10

### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast:* S3 E9 [Sanatan Dharma](#)
- *The RE Podcast:* S11 E5 [The One About The Vedas](#)

### Websites

- *RE Online:* [Hindu Worldviews essays and links](#)



## Islam

### Video Resources

- [TrueTube: How Islam began in 10 minutes video](#)
- [The University of Nottingham : Basic beliefs in Islam short video](#)
- [TrueTube: denominations in Islam short video](#)
- [TrueTube: Holy Cribs The Mosque short video](#)
- [The University of Nottingham: Exploring the Qur'an and its Interpretation short video](#)

### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 11

### Websites and online courses

- [Open University free short online course: Diversity in religion: Islam](#)
- [RE Online: Muslim Worldviews essays and links](#)
- [Chris Hewer Website with a range of resources for GCSE Islam](#)

## Judaism

### Video Resources

- [TrueTube: Holy Cribs The Synagogue](#)
- [TrueTube: Holy Books The Torah](#)
- [What is a Jew? Short video](#)
- [LSE Faith Centre: Covenant](#)

### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 12

### Podcasts

- [Flourishing Together Podcast: S2 E9 Teaching Jewish Worldviews with Anna Silver](#)

### Website and online courses

[RE Online: Jewish Worldviews essays and links](#)  
[Jewish Living Online](#)

## Non-religious worldviews

### Video Resources

- [Atheism: A Very Short Introduction by Julian Baggini, short video](#)
- [Understanding Humanism: An introduction to Humanism](#)

### Podcasts

- [The RE Podcast: S6 E6 The One About Humanism](#)
- [The RE Podcast: S13 E8: The One About Atheism](#)

### Websites and online courses

- [RE Online: non-religious worldviews essays and links](#)
- [Introducing humanism: non-religious approaches to life Online course](#)
- [Understanding Humanism website](#)

## Sikhi

### Video resources



- LSE Faith Centre: [Justice](#)
- *Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction* by Eleanor Nesbitt [short video](#)
- *TrueTube*: The formation of the Khalsa [short video](#)
- *TrueTube*: [Holy Cribs The Gurdwara](#)
- *Truetube*: [Vaisakhi](#)

#### Reading

- Holt, J.D. (2022) *Religious Education in the Secondary School*, chapter 13

#### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast*: S3 E4: [The One About Sikhi](#)

#### Websites

- *RE Online*: [Sikhi Worldviews essays and links](#)
- [Teaching Sikhi Report](#)

### Other religions and worldviews

- *Beyond the Big Six* by James Holt [webinar](#)
- *REOnline*: [links to essays etc for a number of religions and worldviews can be found here](#)

### Disciplines in RE

Many people thinking of teaching RE will have a background in a particular disciplines or ways of knowing (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, History etc.). RE draws on a range of disciplines and all contribute to the richness of the subject. It is important that we think carefully about the disciplinary knowledge we need to study religion and worldviews and where we have particular strengths, or areas that need development.

- This short video – *Balanced RE* – explains it really well
- [Material from the Ways of Knowing focus week on RE:Online: blogs, films, a parent leaflet, an in conversation webinar and links](#)
- This is Podcast explores disciplinary knowledge in RE in much more detail: [Flourishing Together Podcast: S2 E12: Getting Better at 'Ways of Knowing' in RE with Gillian Georgiou and Olivia Seymour – Flourishing Together](#)
- *Meols Cop RE* Disciplinary Conversations [webinar](#) (Religious Studies)

### Philosophy of Religion

#### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast* S15 E3: [The One About Metaphysics](#)
- *The RE Podcast*: S12 E8: [The One About Fallacies In Arguments](#)
- *The RE Podcast*: S13 E1: [The One About Ethics](#)
- *The Panpsycast* ([podcasts on all aspects of Philosophy](#))

#### Reading

- Warburton, N (2012) *A Little History of Philosophy*

#### Video Resources

- *Meols Cop RE* Disciplinary Conversations [webinar](#) (Philosophy)

#### Websites and online courses

- *BBC*: [Seven ways to spot a bad argument](#) (logical fallacies)
- *Open University* Online [Introduction to Philosophy of Religion free course](#)

## Theology

### Video resources

- Meols Cop RE Disciplinary Conversations webinar (Theology)
- *Why Study the differences between Theology and Religious Studies* with Alison Milbank [video](#)

### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast: S3 E1 [The One About Feminist Theology](#)*

### Websites

- *REOnline: [Practical introduction to hermeneutics](#)*

### Online courses

- *Alison Introduction to Theology [online course](#)*

## Human & Social Sciences

### Video Resources

- *What is a Social Science? [Short video](#)*
- *Meols Cop RE Disciplinary Conversations webinar ([Social Sciences](#))*

### Podcasts

- *The RE Podcast: S7 E14 [The One About The Census 2021](#)*
- *The RE Podcast: S13 E11: [The One About The Psychology Of Religion](#)*

### Websites

- *RE:Online: [Blog](#), [Research spotlight](#) and [Resource spotlight](#) about RE in numbers*

## GCSE Religious Studies

Here are links to the GCSE exam boards. Each will have links to the specification and assessment materials. Although there are differences, there is a lot of common content and skills. Do not worry too much, just choose one to explore. Have a go at an exam paper to help you get a feel for what it is like and then find the mark scheme and have a go at marking your work. You could also look at the examiner's report to see what the common mistakes were etc.

- [AQA GCSE](#)
- [Edexcel GCSE](#)
- [Eduqas GCSE](#)
- [OCR GCSE](#)

There are many materials available to support the GCSE that you might find helpful for your subject knowledge and to help you understand what is required at GCSE level. For example:

- **Ben Wardle** does [subject knowledge videos](#) and walk-through exam papers on YouTube
- Series 17 of The **RE Podcast** has a number of episodes dedicated to GCSE RS

## A-level Religious Studies

Here are links to the A-level exam boards. Each will have links to the specification and assessment materials. Although there are differences, there is a lot of common content and skills. Do not worry too much, just choose one to explore.

- [AQA A-level](#)
- [Edexcel A-level](#)
- [Eduqas A-level](#)
- [OCR A-level](#)

There are many materials available to support the A-level that you might find helpful for your subject knowledge and to help you understand what is required at A-level. For example:

- *The Panpsycast* ([podcasts on all aspects of Philosophy](#))
- *Philosophy according to Eddie videos* (he also does ones on Ethics and Christian Philosophy)
- *I think therefore I teach website*
- A- level Religious Studies [revision notes](#) for all exam boards

## Further Development

Here are useful links for you to explore further

### Reading

- A good [bibliography of suggested reading](#)

### Websites

- [REOnline](#) – a wealth of resources including essays and links on many religious worldviews and traditions
- [Religion Media Centre](#) – includes factsheets, news stories and briefings about religion in the news
- [Theologians in Conversation](#) (University of Nottingham)
- [University of Chester: Theology and Religious Studies A-level Webinars](#)

### Podcasts

- [The RE Podcast](#) – explore hundreds of episodes on a wide range of topics related to RE
- [In Our Time](#) podcasts – hundreds of episodes on religion and philosophy
- [Theos podcasts](#) – podcasts on a wide range of topics related to religion and worldviews
- [Beyond Belief](#) podcasts – a wonderful archive of episodes about many aspects of religion and lived experience
- [The Moral Maze](#) – *debate examining the moral issues behind one of the week's news stories*

### Online Courses

- [Culham St Gabriel's Short Courses](#) – start with the introductory courses and move on to the Digging Deeper modules as appropriate
- [The Open University Religion, belief and worldviews hub](#) includes free online courses, webinars, and videos
- [FutureLearn online courses](#) in religion
- [Harvard X](#) online courses on world religions through their scriptures. These are free, but you need to pay a fee if you wish to get a certificate

### Teaching Resources

- [TrueTube](#) – a wealth of short videos on a range of topics within RE
- BBC Bitesize- a wealth of resources for [GCSE](#) and for [other year groups](#)
- [The Bible Project](#) – a wide range of resources designed to help people to understand the Bible
- [The Oak Academy](#) – free, expert-designed resources – [Key Stage 3](#); [Key Stage 4](#)

This resource has been compiled by Karen Steele from the University of Worcester. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but a guide.