



## Year 9 Extension Homework Tasks

### GCSE Options Group

Complete all four tasks:

#### Extension Task 1:

Research the origin of Christianity.

- Who was Jesus of Nazareth?
- What was significant about the places he lived and visited?
- What impact did Jesus have on the people at the time?
- What impact does Jesus have on Christians today?
- What challenges do Christians have in following their religion today?



*Starter Resources:*

[Jesus of Nazareth](#)

[Origins of Christianity](#)

[Issues facing the Church](#)

#### Extension Task 2:

The history and development of Islam

Prepare a fact-file on Islam, which includes:

- The life of the Prophet Muhammad.
- The challenges and triumphs Muhammad experienced.
- The historical connection of Islam with Judaism.
- The major groups within Islam.
- How Muslims express their beliefs through prayer and action.
- The challenges Muslims face in the world today.



*Starter Resources:*

[How Islam began](#)

[The Life of Muhammad](#)

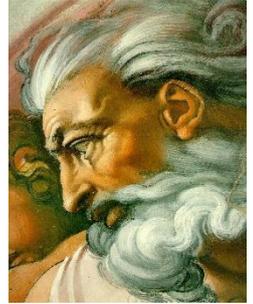
[Islamic Beliefs](#)



## Extension Task 3:

### Does God exist?

- 1) Find out about the Design Argument (William Paley) Is it possible to hold this argument in the scientific world today?
- 2) What are religious experiences? Explain how these can be used to support belief in God.
- 3) What are the greatest obstacles that theists face in the world today?
- 4) What are the strengths and weaknesses of atheism?



### *Starter resources:*

- 'Is it possible to believe that God is revealed by healing miracles?'  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk.edgesuite.net/education/clips/zwxkd2p>
- 'Would the world be more peaceful without religion?'  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zcnm82p>

## Extension Task 4

### Religion, Justice, War and Peace

Explain why some religions support war. Include references to sources of wisdom and authority from sacred texts.

Why do some religions support the casualties of war without getting involved in the conflict themselves?

Which religions are Pacifist? What is the basis for their position?

### *Starter resources:*

[Key points on war and peace](#)

[Pacifism](#)

[Crime and Punishment](#)

