Topic Overview: What does it mean to live a good life?

KS3	Year 8
Disciplinary Focus:	Theology and Philosophy
Religion Focus:	Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism
Religion to Encounter:	Christianity, Islam, Humanism
Core Question:	What does it mean to live a good life – is it being happy, doing our duty, or tolerating suffering?
Component Questions:	What does it mean to be happy – and how can we measure happiness? What do Buddhists, Christians and Humanists believe about happiness? What do Hindus and Sikhs believe about duty, and is charity a form of duty? Is a good life one that recognises suffering? What do Christians and Buddhists believe about suffering?
Core substantive knowledge:	What happiness is and how it can be measured. Buddhist ideas about meditation and compassion, and about the Sangha and the Five Precepts. Christian beliefs about happiness – good works and Biblical teachings. Secular views about happiness including Humanist ideas and that of the Happiness Movement. The importance of Seva in Sikhism, including langar. Aims of life in Hinduism and the importance of dharma. Christian and Muslim beliefs about charity – sources of belief, zakat and sadaqah. The causes of suffering according to Buddhism, dukkha and the Eightfold Path. The causes of suffering according to Christianity – natural and moral evil, theodicies, The Fall and free will.