

Ethics and Religious Studies (Secondary 4 - 6) Curriculum Framework

Appendix 1

2.2.1 Compulsory Part: Ethics

This is an introductory study of ethics. The emphasis is on value formation and judgement based on rational thinking. Students have to study certain personal and social issues so as to nurture their abilities to make ethical judgements and informed choices.

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Module 1: Normative Ethics

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
The Nature of Morality	Moral principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic moral principles such as kindness, harm avoidance, respect for autonomy and loyalty • differences between moral principles and moral rules: moral principles are applied universally and moral rules have the meaning of behaviour restraint
	Moral reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarification of moral concepts • upholding the value of rational thinking • sustaining an open-minded attitude (without self-interest or prejudice)
	Pluralism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese and the Western values and morality • Seeking possible consensus and respecting the differences among people who hold various moral principles in a pluralistic society (e.g. tolerance and respect)
	Morality and religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relationship between morality and religion: contradictory, mutually supplemented or not related
Theory of Conduct	Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the priority of the good over the right • judgement of right or wrong depends on the goodness or badness of the consequences (e.g. Utilitarianism: good consequences mean right, bad consequences mean wrong) • Act-Utilitarianism and Rule-Utilitarianism

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Module 1: Normative Ethics

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
	Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the priority of the right over the good • judgement of right or wrong according to the nature of the action itself (e.g. Kantian: duties are right regardless of consequences) • the possible incompatibility of duties (e.g. fairness may not be in line with loyalty)
Theory of Value and Virtue	Intrinsic value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of intrinsic value: the built-in value of the matter itself • examples to illustrate the meaning of intrinsic value
	Instrumental value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of instrumental value: value desirably judged in terms of achievement of other ends • examples to illustrate the meaning of instrumental value
	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an essential and distinguishing attribute of something or someone • desirable qualities of loyalty, filial piety, integrity, fairness, honesty, responsibility, prudence, courage, etc. • undesirable qualities of lies and cheating, selfishness, retaliation, jealousy, etc.
	Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ranking among competing virtues (e.g. loyalty and filial piety)
	Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtues and values may not be compatible (e.g. honesty may not be compatible with compassion)

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
Human Rights	Inherent dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why human rights should be respected and how they form an essential constituent or characteristic of being human • situations which deny inherent dignity
	Nature of rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rights and duties • rights and the rule of law • duties and protecting one's rights • human rights and development of history
	Civil and political rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning of the following concepts from a specific perspective (e.g. children's rights/women's rights/rights of freedom from racial discrimination) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rights of privacy, access to information, belief, personal expression, association and freedom of person (prevention of slavery and forced labour), etc. • the impacts of pluralism, elaboration of reasonable restrictions and implementation through local legislation
	Economic, social and cultural rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning of the following concepts from a specific perspective (e.g. children's rights/women's rights/rights of freedom from racial discrimination) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rights to work and just treatment, subsistence, health care, education, housing and enjoyment of culture, etc. • specific indicators for the implementation of rights, such as: availability, accessibility and adequacy of human rights protective measures • the impacts of pluralism, elaboration of reasonable restrictions, and implementation through local legislation

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
	Prevention of discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the roots of discrimination different manifestations of discrimination some past and present examples of discrimination
	Self-determination Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ways in which one exercises the right of self-determination autonomy rights
Life and Death	Right to raise a family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to raise a family or not to raise a family personal and social considerations
	Birth control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes of and reasons for birth control views on birth control from different cultural, political and religious perspectives
	Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes of and reasons for abortion ethical considerations: pro-life or pro-choice
	Ageing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> legal, cultural, religious and philosophical attitudes towards ageing
	Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> legal, cultural, religious and philosophical attitudes towards suffering
	Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsibility to self, to others and to society; consequences of decisions, respect and love for one another ethical considerations
	Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> categories of euthanasia: active euthanasia, passive euthanasia, voluntary euthanasia, non-voluntary euthanasia and involuntary euthanasia ethical considerations
	Capital punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> theories of punishment: deterrence, retribution and transformation ethical considerations

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
Sex, Companionship and Family	Heterosexual and homosexual relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • love and sexual relationship • values and characteristics of heterosexual relationship • ethical issues in the homosexuality debate
	The single life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • causes of and reasons for having a single life • different attitudes towards the single life • consequences of living a single life
	Premarital and extramarital sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different attitudes towards premarital sex • consequences of extramarital sex on spouse and family
	Marriage and divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning of marriage • elements of a good marriage • causes of divorce and its consequences
	Pornography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • causes of pornographic activities • reasons for supporting or opposing pornography • attitudes towards pornography
	Prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • causes of prostitution • reasons for supporting or opposing prostitution • attitudes towards prostitution
	The family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions of the family for individuals and society • impact on the family system of modern society • how the family system responds to the issues of companionship • how forms of companionship illuminates one another

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
Bioethics	Medical ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relationship between health care professionals and patients • rights of patients
	Gender selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons for gender selection • ethical issues in gender selection
	Genetic engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning of genetic engineering • ethical arguments for or against genetic engineering
	Cloning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cloning debate • ethical arguments for or against cloning
Environmental Ethics	Pollution and consumerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • causes of environmental pollution • consumption and its environmental consequences • how materialistic values influence the relationship between human society and the environment
	Use and exploitation of the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arguments for or against using and exploiting nature
	Biodiversity and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instrumental and intrinsic value of nature: maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity • importance of conservation to environmental protection • arguments for or against using animals for food and experimentation
	Global village and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple meanings of sustainable development • common goal and conflicts between economic development and environmental protection • need for a global perspective in solving environmental problems

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
Business and Economic Ethics	Justice/fairness/equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning of justice/fairness/equality • exploring justice/fairness/equality in policies, such as tax and social welfare • issues from a justice/fairness/equality perspective (e.g. fair trade, syndicated loan, corruption, industrial action)
	Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the origin of poverty • causes of poverty in a globalized world and its solutions
	Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ways by which advertisements transmit messages and values • positive and negative effects of advertisements • values that guide advertisements
	Social responsibility of corporations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • profit motive and social responsibility • obligations to stake-holders such as consumers, the community and shareholders • ethical considerations related to the production process and outcomes
Media Ethics	Information and entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right of a person to know and to be informed, and the role of the mass media in modern life (e.g. to transmit information, facilitate communication and provide entertainment)
	Freedom of speech and editorial independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the significance of freedom of speech in human society and its relations with the mass media • the power of freedom of speech and how the media can abuse it • the need for critical evaluation and public accountability • problems with media owned by corporations or political parties in a globalized world
	Code of ethics and professionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional conduct in the mass media (respect for the individual and for privacy) • role and mission of media professionals: report the facts and promote stand for justice (legal, moral and professional values considerations)

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Module 2: Personal and Social Issues

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
	Media Ethics issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of stereotyping on society dangers of misleading information, indoctrination and emotive provocation censorship: arguments for and against censorship; balance between protecting freedom, privacy and public interest Changes and concerns brought about by new media (including fake news, online public trials and privacy)

2.2.2 Elective Part I: Religious Traditions (Choose **ONE** only)

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Module 1: Buddhism

Unit 1: History of Buddhism

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
Rise of Buddhism • Historical background	The influence of Indigenous Indian culture and Aryan culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • life and culture of aboriginal societies in ancient India • social changes after the Aryan invasion • founding of the four caste system and its impacts • the teachings of Brahmanism, revolutionary ideas and practices of the samanas at the time of the Buddha
• Life of the Buddha	Birth Growing up Renunciation Search for teachers Practice of austerity Giving up austerity, enlightenment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family background and birth • understanding of human life and the world during childhood • education and marriage • the four encounters and renunciation • practising asceticism and meditation • self-mortification • abandoning asceticism • enlightenment
	First turning of the wheel of dharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first Sermon on the Four Noble Truths • meaning of the Four Noble Truths in Buddhism

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Unit 1: History of Buddhism

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
	<p>Preaching along the river Ganges</p> <p>Nirvana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> followers of the Buddha from different castes: Ananda Yasa, Sariputra, Maudgalyayana, Bimbisara, Anathapindada and Upali, etc. last teachings and nirvana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of the Buddhist Canon 	<p>First and Second Councils Reasons behind the Collecting Buddhist Canon</p> <p>The four councils</p> <p>The Tripitaka: its significance and development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cause, process, outcome and impact of the First Council organised by Maha Kasyapa after the Buddha's Nirvana cause, process, outcome and impact of the Second Council next three councils contents of Tripitaka, and its different editions
<p>Spreading of Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Buddhism in India 	<p>Early Buddhism (from the time of the Buddha to around one century after the Buddha's nirvana)</p> <p>Schisms and Sectarian Buddhism</p> <p>The rise of Mahayana Buddhism</p> <p>The rise of various Mahayana schools (Prajnaparamita, Madhyamaka, Yogacara, Tathagatagarbha and Esoteric Buddhism)</p> <p>Decline and extinction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> early Buddhist doctrines and the life of the early sangha Schism and the formation of Sectarian Buddhism origin and development of Mahayana Buddhism formation and development of Prajnaparamita philosophy formation and development of Madhyamaka philosophy formation and development of Yogacara philosophy formation and development of Tathagatagarbha thought formation and development of Esoteric Buddhism causes of the decline and disappearance of Buddhism

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Unit 1: History of Buddhism

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Buddhism in China other regions 	<p>South Asia</p> <p>The Introduction and Development of Buddhism in China</p> <p>East Asia</p> <p>China</p> <p>Western countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduction to and development of Buddhism in South Asia countries, such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Burma introduction to and development in East Asian countries, such as Japan and Korea introduction to and development in China, (including the periods of introduction, growth, maturity, decline and revival) Introduction and development of Buddhism in the West
<p>Contemporary Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theravada Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Western Buddhism 	<p>The distinctive teachings and organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Theravada Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Chinese Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Tibetan Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Western Buddhism

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Unit 1: History of Buddhism

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pluralistic Development of Buddhism in Hong Kong	Development of Buddhism in Hong Kong The roles of Chinese Buddhism, Theravada Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism in the development of Buddhism in Hong Kong Social contributions of Buddhism in Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• introduction and development of Chinese Buddhism in Hong Kong• introduction and development of Theravada Buddhism in Hong Kong• introduction and development of Tibetan Buddhism in Hong Kong• The services of Buddhism in Hong Kong, including social welfare, medical services and education

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Unit 2: Basic Buddhist Doctrines

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Noble Truths 	Truth of Suffering Truth of Arising of Suffering Truth of Cessation of Suffering Truth of methods for ending suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meaning and value of the Four Noble Truths the Truth of Suffering: phenomena of unsatisfactoriness in life the Truth of the Arising of Suffering: defilements and their causes the Truth of the Cessation of Suffering: extinguishments of defilements – Nirvana the Truth of the Path: means to the extinguishment of defilements – the Eightfold Paths the relationships between the Four Noble Truths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent Origination 	Significance of the Dependent Origination Meaning and Development of the Dependent Origination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meaning of Dependent Origination the relationship between Dependent Origination and Dependent Arisen the explanation of life and existence by Dependent Origination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve links of Dependent Origination 	Meaning of each link Rebirth and liberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the name and meaning of each link explanation of the arising and cessation of life by the Twelve links of Dependent Origination

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Unit 2: Basic Buddhist Doctrines

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karma and rebirth 	<p>Meaning of karma and rebirth</p> <p>Comparison of the Brahmanic and the Buddhist notions of karma</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meaning of karma, karmic causes, karmic efficacy, karmic retribution the relationship between karmic retribution and rebirth types of karma: determinate karma, indeterminate karma, shared karma and individual karma have reflection on: taking control of one’s destiny; mind as the master of life; one reaps what one sows; treat all sentient beings as equals; rebirth is suffering, etc similarities: suffering caused by craving; relationship between karma and the past, present and future lives; good deeds cause good results, bad deeds cause bad results differences: concept of self – Brahminism “permanent self”; Buddhism “non-self”; renunciation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five aggregates and non-self 	<p>Composition of the five aggregates</p> <p>Meaning of non-self</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meaning of the five aggregates the characteristics of the five aggregates: non-identical, impermanent, non-voluntary the abandonment of attachment and the attainment of nirvana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Marks of Existence 	<p>Meanings of three marks of existence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> historical background the meaning of the marks the meaning of each mark: impermanence, non-self and nirvana

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Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
• Basic Buddhist practices	Tripod of Buddhist practices: discipline, concentration and wisdom Distinctive practices of the five vehicles	• the meaning of discipline, concentration and wisdom • overcoming the three poisons (desire, hatred and ignorance) by the tripod of Buddhist practice • the vehicles of human beings, celestial beings, sravakas, pratyeka-buddhas and bodhisattvas • differences in motivation, practice and attainment of the five vehicles
• Practices of the vehicles of human beings and celestial beings	The aim of rebirth as human beings and celestial beings Taking the three refuges and practising the five precepts Practising the ten virtues	• the vehicles of human beings and celestial beings are the foundation of Bodhisattva vehicle • the meaning of taking refuge • the meaning of the three treasures: Buddha, Dharma and Sangha • the five precepts: the fundamental precepts (refraining from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct and lying); the protective precept (refrain from consuming intoxicants) • the ten virtues: three body virtues (refraining from killing, stealing and sexual misconduct); four verbal virtues (refraining from lying, licentious speech, duplicitous speech and harsh speech); three mental virtues (refraining from desire, hatred and ignorance)

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Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The sravaka and the pratyekabuddha vehicles	<p>The aims of liberating from rebirth, attaining freedom from suffering, and achieving the stage of sravaka and pratyekabuddha</p> <p>Practising the four foundations of mindfulness</p> <p>Realising the truths of impermanence, suffering, emptiness and non-self</p> <p>Practising the Eightfold Paths</p> <p>Attaining the four stages of enlightenment and nirvana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the way to the rapid cessation of rebirth and personal deliverancethe meaning of sravaka and pratyekabuddhathe meaning of arhatshipthe meaning of mindfulnessthe four foundations of mindfulness: body, feelings, state of mind and dharmaimpermanence: the phenomenon of constant changesuffering: suffering associated with the unpleasant; suffering arising from the inevitable destruction of the pleasurable; suffering inherent in sentient lifeemptiness: non-identical, impermanent and non-voluntarynon-self: absence of an identical, permanent and voluntary substancethe meaning of the right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentrationthe relationship between the Eightfold Paths and the tripod of Buddhist practicethe meaning of the four fruits: srota-apanna-phala, sakradagami-phala, anagami-phala, arhat-phalathe meaning of nirvana

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Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practices of Bodhisattva vehicle	<p>The aim of universal liberation</p> <p>Dependent origination and emptiness</p> <p>Practising the six perfections and four all-embracing virtues</p> <p>Practising the four immeasurable minds</p> <p>The mind of great compassion and Bodhicitta</p> <p>Attaining the Great Bodhicitta, the great nirvana and the Buddhahood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the meaning of bodhisattvarealising the truth of emptinessthe six perfections: charity, discipline, forbearance, effort, concentration, wisdomthe four all-embracing virtues: charity, kind words, beneficial acts, and adaptation of oneself to othersthe meaning of the four immeasurable minds: compassion, sympathy, empathetic joy and equanimitythe mind of great compassion: help sentient beings to become free from sufferingBodhicitta: the pursuit of enlightenmentThe Great Bodhicitta: the ultimate and perfect enlightenmentthe great nirvana: cessation of all forms of everlasting defilement and rebirththe Buddhahood: three bodies (dharma-body, retribution-body, transformation-body)

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Module 2: Christianity

Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Textual Background The faith of the Old Testament	The Passover	Ex. 12:21-42	To point out how God acts to save and liberate the Israelites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the first Passover: salvation and judgement Pharaoh frees the Israelites
	The Sinai Covenant	Ex. 19:1-8, 20:1-21	To show that Israel became God’s chosen people by covenant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God invites the Israelites to become His chosen people by covenant, and to serve Him as priests
	Exile	Mic. 3:9-12 Ezek. 6:8-10 2 Kings 25: 1-21; 2 Chr. 36: 20-21	To explain the reasons why the Israelite nation fell into ruin: idolatry and social injustice To show the situation of the Israelites when they were exiled to Babylon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon leads his army to Jerusalem and destroys the Temple, and the Israelites were exiled
	Promise of a New Covenant	Jer. 31:3-4, 31-34; Ezek. 36:22-28	To show how God promises to make a new and better covenant to bring the people into an even closer relationship with Himself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> background: (1) Israel repeatedly breaks the covenant and turn to idols; God punishes them by war, defeat and exile; (2) God’s purpose is to change His people so as to demonstrate His holiness to all nations the new covenant brings purification, forgiveness, a new heart and mind, and an experiential knowledge of God

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Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	The Messianic Hope	Isa. 11:1-9	To explain the Jewish hope which was focused on the coming of the Messiah: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Messiah will come as a shoot growing from the stump of David's dynasty like David, the Messiah is to be empowered by the Spirit and to rule in justice
History and identity of Israel in the Old Testament	The theme of election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning of the chosen people Circumcision The theme of covenant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and content of the covenants 	Deut. 7:6-9, 14:2; Ps. 33:12; Isa. 14:1, 41:8-9 <u>Abraham</u> in Gen. 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-22; <u>Moses</u> in Ex. 19:4-5, 20:1-17, 23:20-33, 24:1-8; <u>David</u> in 2 Sam. 7:16, Ps. 89:2-4	To show the rights and duties of the Israelites as God's chosen people To show the reasons for and meanings of circumcision To show the nature of the covenants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God takes initiatives to set up covenants people have to obey God so as to obey the covenants To understand the contents and nature of different covenants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the covenant between God and Abraham the covenant between God and the Israelites after exodus the covenant between God and David To understand the relationship between covenant and election
History between the two Testaments	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hellenization Independent War of Maccabees Roman occupation 		 To understand the measures and effects of Hellenization when Greece seized Palestine To understand the causes, process and influence of the Independent War of Maccabees

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Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<p>Socio-political Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palestine in the first century A.D.	<p>Roman occupation: To explain the political situation in Palestine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Procurator• King Herod• Sanhedrin <p>To show the characteristics of some Jewish sects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sadducees• Pharisees• Zealots• Herodians• Essenes <p>To show the situation of the people and their background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peasants, fishermen, landlords, craftsmen and businessmen• The officials: tax collectors, priests, Levites, synagogue elders <p>Important historical event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem in A.D. 70		<p>To introduce the political situation in Palestine in the first century A.D.</p> <p>To understand the background of the Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, Herodians and Essenes</p> <p>To understand the situation of the people and officials in Palestine in the first century A.D.</p> <p>To show what happens in the destruction of the Temple and its consequences</p>

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<p>Jesus' Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth and childhood 	<p>Matthew's accounts of the birth of Jesus: To show that the birth of Jesus is prophesied in the Old Testament</p> <p>Luke's accounts of the birth of Jesus</p> <p>To describe the childhood of Jesus</p>	<p>Mt. 1:18-25, 2:1-23</p> <p>Lk. 1:26-56</p> <p>Lk. 2:1-52</p>	<p>To introduce Matthew and Luke's accounts of the birth and childhood of Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the coming of the Son of God: descendant of David, born to be King • born of a virgin • to be born in Bethlehem • the killing of children • the escape to Egypt and return to Nazareth • the role played by Mary, Joseph, the angels, the wise men, King Herod, Simeon and Anna • the coming of the Son of God: human, born of a virgin • the role played by Mary, Joseph, the angels and shepherds • family background • physical and intellectual development • sense of communion with God the Father
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baptism 	<p>John the Baptist</p>	<p>Mk. 1:2-8, 6:14-29</p>	<p>To show the character and work of John the Baptist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John's appearance and behaviour • John's message, role and ministry • John's imprisonment and death • the importance of repentance and forgiveness

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temptation ▪ Jesus calls ordinary people to be His disciples - Jesus sends out the Apostles 	<p>Jesus' baptism</p> <p>The temptation of Jesus</p> <p>Jesus calls four fishermen to be His disciples</p> <p>Jesus calls Levi, the tax-collector to be His disciple</p> <p>Jesus chooses the 12 Apostles</p> <p>Jesus sends out the Apostles to preach</p>	<p>Mk. 1:9-11</p> <p>Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13</p> <p>Mk. 1:16-20</p> <p>Mk. 2:13-17</p> <p>Mk. 3:13-19</p> <p>Mk. 6:7-13</p>	<p>To point out the importance of Jesus' baptism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the meaning of baptism in the days of Jesus and today • Jesus coming to John for His baptism • the signs of God's approval of Jesus <p>To explain the significance of the temptation of Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the background to the temptation of Jesus • the nature of the temptation • Jesus' replies <p>To demonstrate how it is possible to overcome temptations in daily life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obedience to God, submission to the teaching of the Bible, and determination to resist Satan <p>To show that discipleship is a call from Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls ordinary people to be His disciples • the meaning of "disciple" • the appointment of the 12 Apostles • the meaning of "apostle" • the work, power (authority) and mission of the disciples/apostles

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miracles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healing ▪ Authority over evil spirits ▪ Power over nature ▪ Others 	<p>Jesus heals a leper The man with a paralysed hand Jairus' daughter The woman who touched Jesus' cloak A woman's faith Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida</p> <p>Jesus heals a man with evil spirits Jesus heals a boy with an evil spirit</p> <p>Jesus has power over a storm Jesus has power to feed 5,000 people</p> <p>The Pharisees set a trap for Jesus by demanding a miracle</p>	<p>Mk. 1:40-45 Mk. 3:1-6 Mk. 5:22-23, 35-43 Mk. 5: 24-34 Mk. 7:24-30 Mk. 8:22-26</p> <p>Mk. 5:1-20 Mk. 9:14-29</p> <p>Mk. 4:35-41 Mk. 6:30-44</p> <p>Mk. 8:11-13</p>	<p>To show that Jesus has the power to heal and that it is part of His ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus performs the healing miracles because of His compassion and the people's faith • the different reactions of the people to these miracles • Jesus keeps His identity hidden in some of these miracles <p>To show that Jesus has the power over evil spirits and that defeating evil spirits is part of His ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus fights to destroy evil spirits because of his compassion and the people's faith • people's reaction to Jesus' words and deeds • Jesus reveals His identity in these miracles <p>To show that Jesus exercises His power over nature out of His concern for the people's needs, and to point out the importance of faith in facing difficulties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calms a storm and feeds a multitude • the disciples are limited by their lack of faith and understanding <p>To emphasise why Jesus performed miracles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the misunderstanding of people about performing miracles • Jesus' standpoint on performing miracles

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Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jesus' predictions about His suffering ▪ Before suffering 	Transfiguration	Mk. 9:2-8	To point out the glory of Jesus in His transfiguration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmation of the divinity of Jesus • the appearance of Moses and Elijah, and the voice of God acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God
	Jesus' three predictions about His suffering	Mk. 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34	To show why the Messiah has to suffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' three predictions about His suffering • the Messianic Secret • Peter's misunderstanding of Jesus' role • Jesus' preparation of His disciples for His coming suffering
	Entrance into Jerusalem	Mk. 11:1-10	To show how Jesus makes His role as the Messiah public, thereby fulfilling the prophecy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riding on the colt into Jerusalem is a prophetic sign of Messiahship • the way the people welcome Jesus shows their misunderstanding of Messiahship • Palm Sunday
	The anointing at Bethany	Mk. 14:1-11	To show that the anointing is a preparation for Jesus' death: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Jewish leaders' plot to arrest Jesus secretly • Jesus praises Mary's deed • Judas agrees to betray Jesus

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Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrest 	The Lord's Supper	Mk. 14:12-31	To explain the meaning of the Last Supper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus foretells His coming suffering and the reaction of the disciples • the Feast of the Unleavened Bread and the Passover • the significance of the Last Supper in the days of the disciples and in the church today • Maundy/Holy Thursday
	Gethsemane	Mk. 14:32-42	To point out how Jesus as a human being shrinks away from His suffering, but finally determines to do the will of God at all costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' example: to pursue the way of God in prayer • Jesus exhorts the disciples to be watchful and to pray for strength to resist temptation
	Arrest	Mk. 14:43-52	To give an account of the unjust arrest of Jesus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the roles of Judas, the guards, the disciples, the Jewish leaders and the false witnesses
	Before the Council	Mk. 14:53-65	To show how Jesus is condemned for acknowledging His identity as the Messiah: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Jewish Council

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crucifixion and burial 	Peter's denial	Mk. 14:66-72	To explain why and how Peter fails and denies Jesus, and to help students learn from Peter's failure:
	Before Pilate	Mk. 15:1-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in spite of Jesus' warning, Peter denies Him • the reasons for Peter's failure • the importance of repentance
	Crucifixion and death	Mk. 15:16-41	<p>To show how Jesus voluntarily submits to the injustice done to Him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the unjust and illegal trial • the parts played by Pilate, the Jewish leaders and the crowd <p>To give an account of the Crucifixion and explain its meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the meaning of "crucifixion" • the fulfilment of prophecies • Jesus' words on the cross <p>To compare the reaction of different people to the crucifixion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the soldiers, Simon of Cyrene, the two bandits, the priests and scribes, and the bystanders
	Burial	Mk. 15:42-47	<p>To give an account of Jesus' death and burial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • witnesses to Jesus' death: Joseph of Arimathea, the Roman Officer, and some women • Jewish burial • Good Friday

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ways to the Kingdom of God ▪ The Kingdom of God is come the End of Days 	<p>The Mustard Seed</p> <p>Repent and believe the Gospel</p> <p>Virtue of love</p> <p>Jesus blesses little children</p> <p>The rich young ruler</p> <p>Prediction of the “throwing down” of the Temple</p> <p>No man knows when the Day will come</p>	<p>Mk. 4:30-34</p> <p>Mk. 1:15</p> <p>Mk. 9:41-50</p> <p>Mk. 10:13-16</p> <p>Mk. 10:17-27</p> <p>Mk. 13:1-6</p> <p>Mk. 13:32-37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mustard Seed: the outward visible growth of the Kingdom • demands repentance and faith • purity of heart • childlike humility • whole-hearted devotion • the “throwing down” of the Temple is coming; and many people will pretend to be the Messiah • a man taking a long journey: servants should watch out and get ready for the return of the master
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachings for His disciples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life style - Promises - Cost and mission 	<p>Humility and service</p> <p>To be a servant of others</p> <p>To remember Jesus</p> <p>Whoever is not against us is for us</p> <p>Detachment and rewards</p> <p>Receive the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Take up one’s cross and follow Jesus</p> <p>Go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature</p>	<p>Mk. 9:33-37</p> <p>Mk. 10:42-45</p> <p>Mk. 14:22-25</p> <p>Mk. 9:38-41</p> <p>Mk. 10:28-30</p> <p>Jn. 20:19-23</p> <p>Mk. 8:34-38</p> <p>Mk. 16:15-20</p>	<p>To understand how to take the responsibilities of a citizen in the Kingdom of God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the least is the greatest in the Kingdom of God • take Jesus as a role model in serving others • take Jesus’ body and blood in order to remember Jesus’ salvation for all • a willingness to accept other servants of God • to give up what one has in the world will receive God’s reward • the risen Jesus sends his disciples, grants the Holy Spirit and the power of remitting and retaining sins to them • renunciation and self-denial • preaching the Gospel is the mission given by Jesus before His Ascension

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parables about the Kingdom of God - Parables about the End of Days - Parables about moral conduct - Other parables ▪ Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laws and traditions - Debates on Laws and traditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sower The Tenants in the Vineyard Ten Virgins The Sheep and the Goats The Unmerciful Servant The Good Samaritan The Talents The Lost Sheep The Lost Son The greatest commandment Forgiving sin Teachers of the Law condemn Jesus for eating with the outcasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mk. 4:1-20 Mk. 12:1-12 Mt. 25:1-13 Mt. 25:31-46 Mt. 18:21-35 Lk. 10:25-37 Mt. 25:14-30 Lk. 15:1-7 Lk. 15:11-32 Mk. 12:28-34 Mk. 2:1-12 Mk. 2:16-17 	<p>To explain Jesus' purpose in using parables, and to introduce some parables and show their relevance to our daily lives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sower: the different responses to God's message • The Tenants in the Vineyard: the Jewish leaders' rejection of the prophets and the Messiah • Ten Virgins: people have to prepare well for the arrival of the End of Days all the time • The Sheep and the Goats: the qualifications to enter into the Kingdom of God at the End of Day • The Unmerciful Servant: the basic attitude of forgiveness • The Good Samaritan: all people are our neighbours • The Talents: the need to use our talents well in order to be a good steward of talent • The Lost Sheep and The Lost Son: God's unconditional love and welcome for sinners who repent <p>To point out the true meaning of the Law and traditions, and correct the misunderstanding of the Jewish leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, one should love God and one's neighbours, which is more important than offerings and sacrifices • the true meaning of forgiving sin • God also loves sinners, and Jesus states that He comes for sinners

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Unit 2: The Origin of Christianity - Jesus Christ

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
- Sermon on the Mount	Conflict over ritual fasting	Mk. 2:18-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the incompatibility of the old and new spirit • the Sabbath is made for people's sake, and not as a burden • the real source of uncleanness • it is wrong to give traditional laws a higher position than the Law • the true will of God about marriage • people have different duties in response to their different roles in the world • resurrection exists • the Messiah is both man and God <p>To show that the Sermon is about a God-centred approach to life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ways that lead to true happiness (b) to be salt and light in the world (c) based on a proper relationship with God rather than religious rituals (d) to trust God and not any material thing (e) to maintain good human relationships by forgiving and not by judging others (f) to build one's life on the teaching of Jesus and not the Jewish tradition (g) to strive for absolute morality and impartial love
	Conflict over the Sabbath	Mk. 2:23-28	
	Clean and unclean	Mk. 7:1-5, 14-22	
	Traditions to the elderly	Mk. 7:6-13	
	A question on divorce	Mk. 10:1-12	
	A question about paying taxes	Mk. 12:13-17	
	A question about rising from death	Mk. 12:18-27	
	A question about the Messiah	Mk. 12:35-37	
	Sermon on the Mount: Characteristics of the citizens of the Kingdom		
	The Beatitudes	Mt. 5:3-12	
	Salt and light	Mt. 5:13-16	
	The six antitheses	Mt. 5:21-48	
	Emphasis on true piety	Mt. 6:1-18	
	Attitude towards life	Mt. 6:19-7:11	
The Golden rule	Mt. 7:12		
Three warnings	Mt. 7:13-27		

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Unit 3: The Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Jesus' Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus in the eyes of the Jews 	Using the power of Beelzebub Jesus is rejected at Nazareth Jesus is regarded as the risen John the Baptist Jesus is regarded as John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets Rabbi/teacher	Mk. 3:20-22 Mk. 6:1-4 Mk. 6:14-16 Mt. 23:8-10	To show different views of Jesus' identity from different people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers of the Law accuse Jesus that He is inspired by the devil since He has the power to cast out unclean spirits people in Nazareth know Jesus to be a carpenter and do not accept His higher status Herod Antipas regards Jesus as the risen John the Baptist people other than the disciples regard Jesus as John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets People regard Jesus as a rabbi, teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus in the eyes of His disciples 	Son of God Messiah	Mk. 1:1, 3:11, 5:7, 14:61, 15:39 Mk. 8:29, 14:61-62, 15:32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the disciples understand Jesus as Son of God as a result of His miracle-performing the Jewish views of Messiah at Jesus' time Jesus' interpretation of the meaning of Messiah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' understanding of Himself 	Son of Man	Mk. 2:10, 2:28, 8:31, 10:45, 14:62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meanings of Son of Man: (1) has the right to forgive sins; (2) Lord of the Sabbath; (3) has to suffer; (4) the one who serves people; (5) will come back from heaven in glory
Development of the Early Church	The Ascension	Acts 1:6-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the promise of the Holy Spirit and the power to witness the Ascension

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Unit 3: The Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit Peter's preaching Persecution of the early believers (Stephen and James) Conversion of Saul	Acts 2 Acts 2 Acts 5:17-33, 6:8-15, 7:54-8:3, 12:1-5 Acts 9:1-19	To show that the Pentecost is the birthday of the church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the form and gift of the Holy Spirit To introduce the content of the proclamation of the Early Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter's proclamation begins the active spreading of the Gospel by the Church To show the courage of the apostles as witnesses of Christ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the apostles, forbidden to preach, choose to obey God and not man • the threat of execution • the faith of Stephen as shown in his arrest and death • Herod executes James To give an account of the conversion of Saul and its importance for the development of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saul's vision of the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus • God reveals His purpose to Ananias and sends him to baptise Saul

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Unit 3: The Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
			To explain the nature of conversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the meaning of the conversion of Saul:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) complete break with his past(b) freedom from the struggle for righteousness(c) displacement of self(d) complete change of values

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Unit 3: The Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Preaching to the Gentiles	Acts 9:20-11:30	<p>To show the source of Peter's power to heal, and to show the Gospel was spread in Judea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter heals in the name of Jesus and many people believe <p>To show how God prepared to reveal His salvation to all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives a vision to Cornelius, a devout Roman centurion • Peter learns in a vision that salvation is for all • Peter explains that the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles is the proof of God's acceptance <p>To show the work done by the church in Antioch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians from Cyprus and Cyrene preach to the Gentiles in Antioch and many Gentiles turn to the Lord • Barnabas is sent by the church in Jerusalem to help in Antioch, and Barnabas invites Saul to help • the term "Christians" is first used, signifying separation from Judaism • Antioch sends famine relief to Judea

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Unit 3: The Continuation of Jesus' Ministry

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
		1Jn. 2:7-11, 3:11-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> love one another: one has to know how to love another in the way Jesus loves His people