

The A-Z of Religion & Belief

Notes and home learning ideas from Lat Blaylock, RE Today

This series of 26 short clips from BBC were made in 2017 to support learning in Religious Education for 11-14s. I was engaged as RE consultant to the series and worked with Mosaic Films and the BBC Commissioner to create the series. I hope teachers of RE all over the UK will find them a valuable addition to our resources. This set of notes is set out to enable pupils to learn at their own pace, and in relation to the particular RE curriculum they are following, with the guidance of their teachers of course. I have devised here 26 learning activities each based upon one of the short broadcasts. These could be used as homework / home learning activities because they are set up as supported self-study. You could ask pupils to do 13 weeks' homework, with two programmes viewed per week, for example. The tasks and expectations are high, especially for the 11-12-year olds, but there is enough to enable achievement in the details given.

One way to use these is for the teacher to give a single page from the 26 pages that follow to pupils. They watch the clip and complete the tasks – which are written directly at the student in each case – writing when they need to on the back of the task sheet. Or writing could be digital, or on exercise books or folders.

This is one kind of solution to some issues in setting good quality RE home learning.

Other teachers will prefer to use some of the clips relevant to classroom planned lessons with whole classes, so the tasks are all headed 'Classroom or homework task'.

The 26 clips are all animated in a contemporary style. We intended to use a conceptual approach, giving examples, defining key terms, opening up big questions and provoking students to think for themselves about religion and belief. There is reference to many different disciplines within religious study. In such short clips, we know that much will be left unsaid, and students will need to gather much more information. The animations intend to use a light touch and stimulate interest and curiosity – while being accurate and respectful to different ideas, of course. I doubt that everyone will like everything about them, but I know 11-14s are finding them engaging.

I thank those at BBC and Mosaic Films who worked so creatively and so hard to make these. Have fun using them.