**Skills**

Understand how and why people express beliefs.

Evaluate a statement making detailed reference to the religions studied, including relevant examples of religious practice.

Reach a justified conclusion comparing my own religious beliefs to those of other believers or non believers.

Use respect and compassion to express views on how religions and world views have affected society.

**Unit of Study**  Does suffering make it impossible to believe in God? **Year 9**

**Assessment**

* Write a diary entry as a non Jewish witness of Kristallnacht.
* Evaluate the statement “God cannot be omnibenevolent and omnipotent to allow suffering to happen”.

**Overview**

The most common question raised within religious studies is if there is a God, why is there suffering in the world.

By the end of this unit you will;

* identify different types of suffering and some of the causes
* identify your own questions about suffering
* evaluate religious answers to the question of suffering
* give your opinion about God and suffering making reference to religious viewpoints.

**Key Words**

**Suffering**

**Prayer**

**Test of Faith**

**Kristallnacht**

**The Holocaust**

**The Four Noble Truths**

**Moral Evil**

**Original Sin**

**Key Teachings**

Suffering is all around us and some instances are more serious than others. Some instances are caused by human beings and others as part of the natural world.

Some religious people see suffering as a Test of Faith, for example the Story of Job or as a punishment for Original Sin (when Adam and Eve disobeyed God).

God is seen to be all loving and all powerful yet allows suffering to happen.

Buddhism teaches that suffering will cease to trouble you when you accept that it is part of life (The Four Noble Truths).