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| **What will we be learning?**OCR GCSE Religious StudiesH573/06 Developments in Buddhist Thought | **Why this? Why now?**In this first year of the two year course, the focus is on the main teachings and practices of Buddhism.The majority of examples come from the practice of the oldest tradition, Theravada. | **Key Words:**Anicca/Anitya Anatta/AnatmanArhat/ArahantBodhisattva BuddhaDhamma/Dharma Dukkha/DukhaJhana Kamma/Karma Magga/MargaNibbana/Nirvana Paticcasamuppada/ Pratityasamutpada PrajnaPunabbhava/Punarbhava Samatha Samsara Sangha/Samgha SilaSkandhas Tanha/Trishna Vipassana |
| **What will we learn?**A study of key concepts within the development of Buddhist thought. We will explore religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections, how they have developed historically and how they are presently discussed. In Year 12 we examine the foundations of Buddhism, investigating both the significance and context of the Buddha as a source of wisdom and authority, as well as the importance of the Three Refuges in expressing Buddhist identity and acting as the underlying principles of Buddhist teachings. The key teachings of Buddhism and their interconnections form the basis of the topics Samsara, The Three Marks and the Four Noble Truths. Exploration of these will provide us with insight into Buddhist beliefs about ultimate reality, the self, the meaning of life and death. These teachings also form the foundations of Buddhist practice and key moral principles. The practice of meditation is also studied in detail, with an emphasis on the personal nature of meditative practice and the diversity of methods used by Buddhists. |
| **What opportunities are there for wider study?**The Buddhism course is one third of the full OCR H573 GCE Religious Studies course, along with Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics.During the course of the unit we aim to spend a day visiting Cittaviveka, a Theravade Buddhist monastery in West Sussex, where we will have the opportunity to meet with a senior monk. |
| **How will I be assessed?**There will be a number of essays set through the year, marked to the OCR GCE assessment levels. These will begin as untimed essays with notes and will move to timed essays without notes by the end of the year. There will also be a Buddhism question as part of the Year 12 internal exam in the Summer term. |