

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - November 2021



@jct_RE



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Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the November edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. Over the coming months, we will continue to explore the 8 Principles of Junior Cycle and how they emerge in the RE classroom. In this month's edition, we highlight some important dates for your diary. We will also consider technology in the classroom and offer various articles with a focus on RE and the Arts.

Upcoming November events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar:

1st	CBA 1 window opens
2nd	All Souls' Day (Christian)
4th	Diwali (Hinduism)
6th	COP26 - Global Day of Action
29th	Hanukah begins (Judaism)

CBA 2 Webinar

The recording of our webinar from Monday 18th October is now available online. It has been edited into three parts and we have uploaded a supporting document with links to the resources mentioned on the night. The three parts with the links document can be found in the Webinars section under the Resources tab [here](#)



Sample Assessment Items

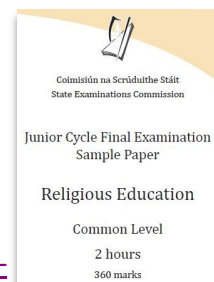
The SEC have provided a sample paper for Junior Cycle RE. A copy will be sent to all schools and is available to download [here](#).

We also have the NCCA sample assessment questions available to guide us with assessment of the specification:

<https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/7136387d-ee39-47a3-a19b-aac9aac6fa7f/Religious-Education-Assessment-Questions.pdf>

Our action verbs poster might also be helpful when reviewing the sample assessment material:

<https://jct.ie/perch/resources/religiousedu/re-all-action-verbs-poster-b.pdf>



This month's focus is on the key principle Choice and Flexibility. Regard-

Junior Cycle Principles: Choice and Flexibility

ing this principle, the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015), page 11, notes:

The school's junior cycle programme is broad enough to offer a wide range of learning experiences to all, and flexible enough to offer choice to meet the needs of students.

This particular principle applies to the whole curriculum, including RE.



Choice and Flexibility in RE

Throughout the RE Specification, students are given the opportunity to engage with the five major world religions. Allowing our students the choice and flexibility to research the major world religions is an example of this principle in action.

In doing this, they may also become more understanding and respectful of those who hold differing beliefs whilst being offered the opportunity to reflect more deeply about their own. The virtual visits poster, for example, on our website provides students with a chance to engage with a variety of sacred spaces associated with the five major world religions:

<https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/religiousedu/religious-education-virtual-visits-poster-pows.pdf>



Technology in the Classroom

Word Clouds are visual displays of the most prominent or frequent words in a body of text. Typically, a word cloud will ignore the most common words in the language ("a", "an", "the" etc) with the remaining words displayed in a "cloud" depicting the relative frequency of particular words.



They offer a number of possibilities in the classroom, for example, a fun visualization for brainstorming and discussion or as an active learning strategy to engage particularly visual learners.

They can also be used to summarize topics to develop understanding and can challenge students to show comprehension of a complex topic by summarizing it into a single word. As well as this, they can be used for formative assessment as a way to reflect on content from a previous class. See [Mentimeter](#) or [Wordcloud](#) to create them.

RE and the Arts: Religious themes in films

Pixar's animated masterpiece *Coco* captivates by touching on a number of themes that may prompt some interesting discussion in the RE classroom, for example, family, reconciliation and the search for meaning. The film's central character is Miguel Rivera, a 12-year-old boy whose dream of being a musician clashes with the wishes of his family. Not content to follow the traditional path laid out for him without a fight, Miguel's heart leads him on a compelling journey through the otherworldly Land of the Dead, where the mysteries of his native ancestry lie in wait of discovery.



This particular Pixar production is one of a number of recently produced films which might be a lively and effective way of exploring various learning outcomes in the RE specification.

Quote of the Month

"The situation the Earth is in today has been created by unmindful production and unmindful consumption. We consume to forget our worries and our anxieties. Tranquilising ourselves with over-consumption is not the way."

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Mailing List

If you know of any colleagues who have not received this newsletter, please encourage them to join our mailing list [here](#):

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Religious Education Team