### 3.1.7 Sikhism

#### Key beliefs
- **The nature of God as expressed in the Mool Mantra**: The content and significance of the Mool Mantra, Guru Granth Sahib (GGS).
- **God as Creator**: Including different aspects of God’s relationship with creation (God shown in and through the universe, God as separate from the universe).
- **The nature of human life**: As an opportunity to unite with God, including the development of Sikh virtues such as wisdom, truthful living, justice, temperance, self-control, patience, courage, humility, contentment.
- **Beliefs in karma and rebirth**: And the aim of mukti; the meaning of mukti, including the different aspects of mukti – positive and negative.
- **The five stages of liberation (five khands)**: And barriers to mukti (illusion, self-centredness, lust, anger, greed, worldly attachment, pride).
- **The importance of being God-centred** (gurmukh) rather than man-centred (manmukh) and the elimination of pride or ego (haumai).

#### Beliefs about the nature of human life
- **Belief in the oneness of humanity**: And in the equality of all, including complete equality of women with men.
- **The expression of the equality of all**: Including the lives of Gurus, including Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh.
- **Sewa**: The importance and priority of service to others, including physical (tan), mental (man) and material (dhan).
- **The role and importance of the sangat (religious community)**.

### Chapter 1: Beliefs and teachings

- **1.1 The nature of God**
- **1.2 God as Creator**
- **1.3 The nature of human life**
- **1.4 Karma, rebirth and mukti**
- **1.5 The five stages of liberation**
- **1.6 The importance of being God-centred**
- **1.7 The oneness of humanity and the equality of all**
- **1.8 Equality and Guru Nanak**
- **1.9 Equality and Guru Gobind Singh**
- **1.10 Equality in the Guru Granth Sahib and in Sikhism today**
- **1.11 Sewa**
- **1.12 The role and importance of the sangat**
### 3.1.7.2 Practices

#### Worship and service
- Religious features of the gurdwara: design, furniture, and artefacts; the practices associated with these features and their importance, including the palki and takht.
- The role of the gurdwara within the Sikh community.
- The role of prayer in the home, GGS 305:4.
- The role and importance of the akhand path.
- The meaning and significance of langar as an expression of sewa.
- The significance of meditating on the name of God (nam japna) in daily life and in the gurdwara.

#### Festivals and lifestyle
- Festivals and their importance for Sikhs in Great Britain today, including the origins and significance of the following:
  - Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)
  - Divali
  - Gurpurbs, including Guru Nanak’s birthday and differences in the way gurpurbs are celebrated in India and Great Britain.
- The importance of visiting Sikh historical gurdwaras, including the Golden Temple (Harimandir Sahib) in Amritsar.
- Birth and naming ceremonies including their meaning and significance.
- The initiation ceremony (Amrit Sanskar), including the meaning and importance of the Khalsa and the five Ks, and the different perspectives of sahajdhari and amritdhari Sikhs.
- The significance and use of the names Singh and Kaur.

### 3.2 Component 2: Thematic studies

#### 3.2.1 Religious, philosophical and ethical studies

### 3.2.1.1 Theme A: Relationships and families

#### Sex, marriage and divorce
- Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships.
- Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage.
- Contraception and family planning.
- The nature and purpose of marriage.
- Same-sex marriage and cohabitation.
- Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying.
- Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion.

### Chapter 2: Practices

- **2.1** The gurdwara
- **2.2** The Guru Granth Sahib
- **2.3** Worship in the gurdwara
- **2.4** The langar
- **2.5** Prayer in the home and meditating on God’s name
- **2.6** The role of the gurdwara within the Sikh community

- **2.7** Vaisakhi
- **2.8** The festival of Divali
- **2.9** The gurpurbs
- **2.10** Pilgrimages to historical gurdwaras – the Golden Temple
- **2.11** Birth and naming ceremonies
- **2.12** The initiation ceremony (Amrit Sanskar)

### Chapter 3: Relationships and families

- **3.1** Religious teachings about human sexuality
- **3.2** Sexual relationships before and outside marriage
- **3.3** Contraception and family planning
- **3.4** Religious teachings about marriage
- **3.5** Divorce and remarriage
### Families and gender equality

- The nature of families, including:
  - the role of parents and children
  - extended families and the nuclear family.
- The purpose of families, including:
  - procreation
  - stability and the protection of children
  - educating children in a faith.
- Contemporary family issues including:
  - same-sex parents
  - polygamy.
- The roles of men and women.
- Gender equality.
- Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples.

### 3.2.1.2 Theme B: Religion and life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The origins and value of the universe</th>
<th>The origins of the universe, including:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- religious teachings about the origins of the universe, and different interpretations of these</td>
<td>- the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- the use and abuse of animals, including:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- animal experimentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- the use of animals for food.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The origins and value of human life</th>
<th>The origins of life, including:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these</td>
<td>- the relationship between scientific views, such as evolution, and religious views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the concepts of sanctity of life and the quality of life.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Abortion, including situations when the mother’s life is at risk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on the sanctity of life and quality of life.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Euthanasia.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Beliefs about death and an afterlife, and their impact on beliefs about the value of human life.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.1.3 Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God</th>
<th>Chapter 5: The existence of God and revelation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Design argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.</td>
<td>5.1 The Design argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First Cause argument, including its strengths and weaknesses.</td>
<td>5.2 The First Cause argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The argument from miracles, including its strengths and weaknesses, and one example of a miracle.</td>
<td>5.3 The argument from miracles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil and suffering as an argument against the existence of God.</td>
<td>5.4 Arguments against the existence of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arguments based on science against the existence of God.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### The nature of the divine and revelation

- Special revelation as a source of knowledge about the divine (God, gods or ultimate reality) including visions and one example of a vision.
- Enlightenment as a source of knowledge about the divine.
- General revelation: nature and scripture as a way of understanding the divine.
- Different ideas about the divine that come from these sources:
  - omnipotent and omniscient
  - personal and impersonal
  - immanent and transcendent.
- The value of general and special revelation and enlightenment as sources of knowledge about the divine, including:
  - the problems of different ideas about the divine arising from these experiences
  - alternative explanations for the experiences, and the possibility that the people who claimed to have them were lying or mistaken.

### Chapter 6: Religion, peace and conflict

**Religion, violence, terrorism and war**
- The meaning and significance of:
  - peace
  - justice
  - forgiveness
  - reconciliation.
- Violence, including violent protest.
- Terrorism.
- Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation.
- The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war.
- Holy war.
- Pacifism.

**Religion and belief in 21st century conflict**
- Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world.
- Nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence.
- The use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.
- Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.

### Chapter 7: Religion, crime and punishment

**Religion, crime and the causes of crime**
- Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.
- Reasons for crime, including:
  - poverty and upbringing
  - mental illness and addiction
  - greed and hate
  - opposition to an unjust law.
- Views about people who break the law for these reasons.
- Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.
### Religion and punishment
- The aims of punishment, including:
  - retribution
  - deterrence
  - reformation.
- The treatment of criminals, including:
  - prison
  - corporal punishment
  - community service.
- Forgiveness.
- The death penalty.
- Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life.

| 7.5 | Three aims of punishment |
| 7.6 | The treatment of criminals |
| 7.7 | Sikh attitudes to forgiveness |
| 7.8 | Sikh attitudes to the death penalty |

### 3.2.1.6 Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

#### Human rights
- Prejudice and discrimination in religion and belief, including the status and treatment within religion of women and homosexuals.
- Issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief including freedom of religious expression.
- Human rights and the responsibilities that come with rights, including the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Social justice.
- Racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Ethical arguments related to racial discrimination (including positive discrimination), including those based on the ideals of equality and justice.

| 8.1 | Human rights |
| 8.2 | Social justice |
| 8.3 | Religious freedom |
| 8.4 | Prejudice and discrimination |
| 8.5 | Women in Sikhism |

#### Wealth and poverty
- Wealth, including:
  - the right attitude to wealth
  - the uses of wealth.
- The responsibilities of wealth, including the duty to tackle poverty and its causes.
- Exploitation of the poor including issues relating to:
  - fair pay
  - excessive interest on loans
  - people-trafficking.
- The responsibilities of those living in poverty to help themselves overcome the difficulties they face.
- Charity, including issues related to giving money to the poor.

| 8.6 | Sikhism and wealth |
| 8.7 | Poverty and exploitation |
| 8.8 | Giving to the poor |

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