

7.1 The WWWs of Religion

KEY CONSTRUCT

1. Diverse worldviews influence and impact how we experience the world.

3.13 What difference does it make to be religious or non-religious in Britain today?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

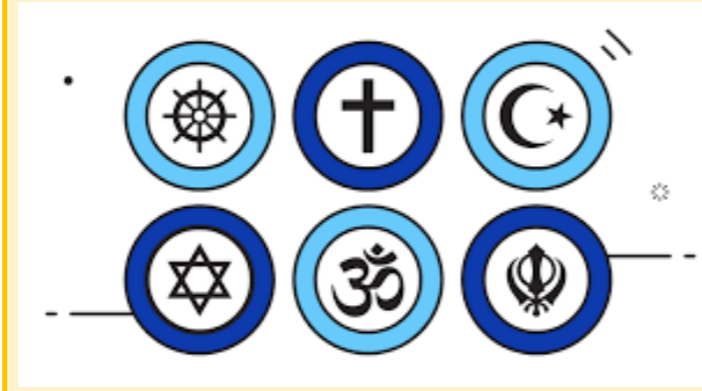
1. **Community** — a group of people with shared values, characteristics or beliefs.
2. **Diversity** — a variety of different people.
3. **Worldview** — how a person experiences and makes sense of the world.
4. **Atheist** — a person who does not believe in God/gods.
5. **Agnostic** — a person who is not sure if they believe in God/gods.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. The six main world faiths are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhi.
2. The UK is a diverse community with many different religious and non-religious believers.
3. Most people's worldview is either theist, atheist or agnostic.
4. Humanism is a belief system which believes in the power and authority of humans.
5. Everyone has the legal right to express their beliefs without judgement or fear.

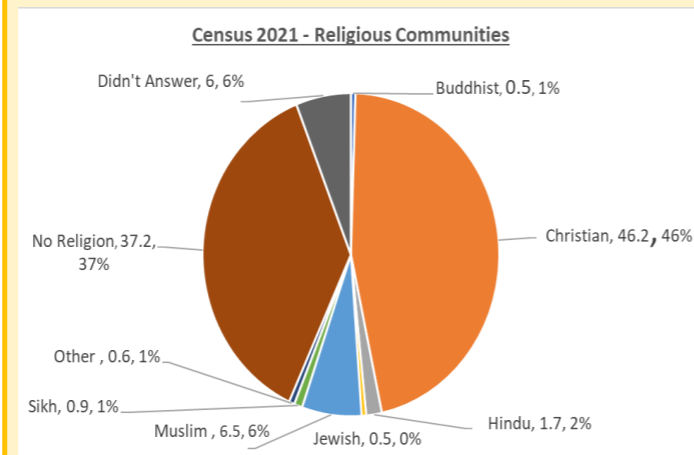
Section C: Core Content

A) The Big Six



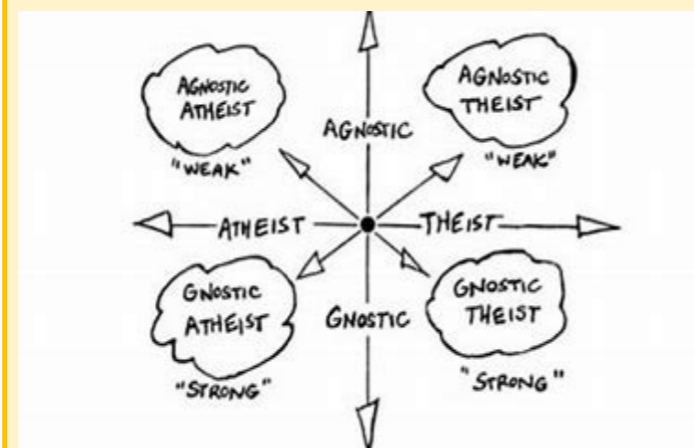
- ⇒ There are **six world faiths** (meaning these religions are present in almost every country across the world). They are **Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhi**.
- ⇒ Each religion has a place of **worship**; founding or important **person**; holy **texts** and different **denominations** (groups).
- ⇒ Most countries will have a majority of people who are part of a religious system. Often in these places the **traditions, laws** and **celebrations** are influenced by a particular religion e.g. Britain (Christianity), India (Hinduism), Saudi Arabia (Islam).
- ⇒ Religious **symbols** are used to reflect certain **historical or cultural aspects** of a religion.

B) The UK Community



- ⇒ The UK population is **diverse**, meaning there are **people from all major religions and worldviews living in modern Britain**.
- ⇒ **British Values and the laws** reflect a commitment to **freedom of religious belief and expression**, meaning people are encouraged to **show and celebrate their individual beliefs**.
- ⇒ The **diversity** of the British people is highlighted in the **census** (household questionnaire) which is **performed every 10 years**. The last census showed growth in almost all religious communities, except **Christianity** which is now at **46.2%**.
- ⇒ The '**Nones**' are people with **either no religion or belief in God** and who make up **approximately 37%**.

C) Belief & Non-belief



- ⇒ **Theists** believe there **is a God**; usually they believe this due to having a **religious experience**; **growing up in a religious household**; **seeing the world as something that has been purposefully created**.
- ⇒ **Atheists** believe **there is no God**; usually they believe this due to a **lack of empirical (scientific) evidence**; **because of the amount of suffering in the world**; **not seeing theism as logical**.
- ⇒ **Agnostics** are **undecided** whether there is a God or not; they usually believe this because they have **not seen enough evidence for either side**; **they had faith but lost it due to suffering/crisis**; **they have not experienced God for themselves**.
- ⇒ **Humanists** are a group of **mostly atheists or agnostics** who believe that the power to change the world lies with **humanity** and **humans alone are in control of their lives and environment**.

7.2 A Study of Sikhi

KEY CONSTRUCT

2. Beliefs and teachings form the basis of organised religions.

3.12 How are Sikh teachings on equality and service put into practice today?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

1. **Guru** — a teacher of spiritual or religious matters.
2. **Equality** — everyone given equal opportunities and treatment.
3. **Sewa** — selfless service to humanity.
4. **Langar** — free kitchen open to all inside a Gurdwara.
5. **Khalsa** — Community of Sikhs who have chosen to join the Sikh brotherhood.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. Guru Nanak was the first human guru and believed in equality, service and one God.
2. The 10 Guru's each promoted equality and service through their teachings and actions.
3. Gurdwara means house of the Guru and all people are welcome there.
4. The Khalsa is the community of men and women who have devoted themselves to Sikhi.
5. There are three types of sewa, tan (physical), man (mental) and dhan (sacrificial) service.

Section C: Core Content

A) The Guru's



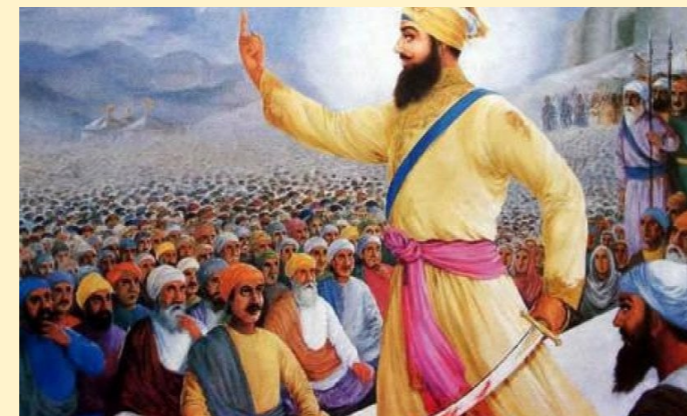
- ⇒ There are **10 human Sikh gurus**. The first was Nanak who broke away from his Hindu family's beliefs and worshipped just **one god—called Waheguru**.
- ⇒ When travelling Nanak was offered **two loaves of bread**, one loaf poured with milk because it was pure, the other was made by slaves so poured with blood. He used this as a way to demonstrate **the importance of honest work**.
- ⇒ When the **flowers around his body** miraculously remained fresh and his body disappeared after died, this **reminded his followers to show equal respect to different beliefs and religions**.
- ⇒ The other 10 Gurus established a **Sikh alphabet**, **healed the sick**, **built the Golden Temple**, **started the langar (free kitchen)**, **fought and died for Sikhi**.

B) Sewa



- ⇒ Sewa is considered **an act of worship to Waheguru (God)** because it makes them **less selfish** and therefore **closer to how God wants them to be**.
- ⇒ There are **three types of sewa** - **Tan (physical - using your body)**, **Man (mental - using your mind/intellect)** and **Dhan (sacrificing something)**.
- ⇒ The **langar is a free kitchen/eatery** run by Sikhs; **everyone is welcome (Sikh or not)**, **everyone sits on the floor (if able)**, **food is vegetarian and everyone helps to maintain it**.
- ⇒ Other ways to perform sewa are: **donating money/time/supplies**, **studying**, **showing kindness**, **teaching younger Sikhs**.

C) Khalsa



- ⇒ **Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa** during a time of great persecution. Joining therefore means you **vow to live according to Sikh values** and are **willing to fight and even die for these values**.
- ⇒ **Equality** is important in the Khalsa - **all Sikh men and women are able to join** - all members **change their surnames to show their unity** - all members of the Khalsa **wear the same uniform as each other - the 5Ks**.
- ⇒ The Five Ks are: **Kesh** (uncut hair), **Khanda** (comb), **Kachera** (undergarments), **Kara** (bracelet) and **Kirpan** (ceremonial sword).
- ⇒ All Khalsa Sikhs are expected to perform lots of sewa (service) - **Khalsa Aid is a charity they can work/volunteer for** and they can **help people in need in the UK and abroad**.

7.3 A Study of Hinduism

KEY CONSTRUCT

2. Beliefs and teachings form the basis of organised religions.

3.9 Why don't Hindus want to be re-manifested and what do they do about it?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

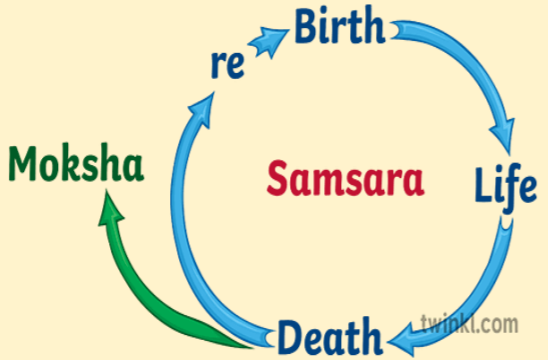
- Samsara** — cycle of birth, death and rebirth
- Moksha** — liberation or freedom from the cycle of samsara
- Karma** — the consequences of your positive and negative actions
- Dharma** — your duty according to your stage of life and place in society
- Ashrama** — the four stages of Hindu life.

Section B: Component Knowledge

- Each samsara life cycle allows the soul to accumulate positive and/or negative karma.
- Karma decides what being your soul will be born into in its next life.
- Hindus want to release their atman from the cycle; this is called Moksha.
- Dharma means doing your duty according to your stage in life and position in society.
- The four ashramas (stages of life) are student, householder, retired and renouncer.



Section C: Core Content

A) Key Beliefs




- ⇒ Every creature has an soul (atman) within it. **The soul wants to be returned to God (Brahman) but is stuck in the cycle of samsara and needs positive karma to free itself.** This is called Moksha (liberation).
- ⇒ **Karma decides which living thing the soul will be born into** each time (plant/animal/human); the **more positive karma the soul has collected the better the life-form it will be manifested into.**
- ⇒ There are **four pathways (yogas)** to Moksha - **Jnana** (path of knowledge); **Bhakti** (path of devotion); **Raja** (path of meditation) and **Karma** (path of action).
- ⇒ Hindus have to **follow their dharma** (duties and responsibilities) to gain positive karma and have a better rebirth.

B) Hindu Life

- ⇒ There is a **hierarchy of humans (called the Varna system)**; humans closest to Moksha are called **Brahmins** (they are often Hindu holy men/priests); then there are **Kshatriyas** (warriors or rulers); then **Vaishyas** (skilled workers) and then **Sudras** (unskilled workers).
- ⇒ **Untouchables** are people who are considered **impure** because they have **too much negative karma**; they are often **treated poorly as outsiders to society.**
- ⇒ There are **four stages of Hindu life**, called ashramas and each stage has **associated duties (dharma)** everyone is expected to do.
- ⇒ **1. Student stage (Brahmacharya)** - dharma is learning and obeying your parents.
- ⇒ **2. Householder stage (Grihastha)** - dharma is raising a family, working and serving the community.
- ⇒ **3. Retirement stage (Vanaprastha)** - dharma is teaching younger generations and developing spiritual practices.
- ⇒ **4. Renouncer stage (Sannyasin)** - dharma is to give up all the material things and devote themselves completely to spirituality. This stage is not for everyone and most Hindus do not complete it.

C) The Ramayana



- ⇒ The ancient poem 'Ramayana' tells the journey of Prince Rama as he rescues his wife, Sita, from the demon king Ravana.
- ⇒ **Prince Rama is considered the perfect example of following dharma.** He has to make multiple decisions in the story about how best to follow his dharma.
- ⇒ He is **born as a kshatriya (ruler) and becomes an excellent bowman (warrior); he also has a devoted wife as he is in the grihastha ashrama.**
- ⇒ Rama defeats the demon and therefore **proves that light/goodness will always conquer evil/darkness.**
- ⇒ This story celebrated at **Diwali** (Festival of Light).

7.4 Sources of Authority

KEY CONSTRUCT

4. Sources of authority are interpreted for wisdom and guidance.

3.4 Does the world need prophets today?

Section A: Key Vocabulary

1. **Authority** — to have wisdom, knowledge or power above that of others.
2. **Prophet** — a person with a message about God, religion or morality.
3. **Prophecy** — a prediction or warning for the future.
4. **Announcement** — a message that encourages or says what is considered right/good.
5. **Denouncement** — a message that discourages or says what is considered wrong/evil.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. A source of authority can be any human or text which holds wisdom or power above others.
2. Religious prophets bring messages from God about religion and morality.
3. Moses, Gandhi, and Desmond Tutu are all considered religious prophets.
4. Sir David Attenborough is an example of a non-religious source of authority.
5. The impact of a source of authority is usually to inspire a positive change.

Section C: Core Content

A) Religious Prophets



- ⇒ Religious prophets bring **messages from God to encourage better worship; moral goodness; conversion to the faith; discourage immorality; criticise injustice or bring hope.**
- ⇒ Prophets and religious leaders are considered sources of authority because they have a **closer connection with God than others.**
- ⇒ The **role of a prophet** is to **announce a positive message; predict a future event or denounce actions which go against God's teachings.**
- ⇒ **Amos** is a minor prophet from the Bible who is known for **denouncing wealth, greed and injustice.**
- ⇒ **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** is a modern prophet who lived in South Africa and **denounced the apartheid (system of black and white segregation) and campaigned against all forms of racism and injustice.**
- ⇒ **Mohandas K. Gandhi** was an Indian-born campaigner who **denounced the mistreatment and inequality of Indian society where the 'Untouchables' were persecuted.**

B) Prophetic Texts



- ⇒ **Sacred texts** are believed to be sources of authority because they **contain wisdom and instructions from God** about how to live within the world and how to worship or serve God.
- ⇒ The **Bible/Torah** contain the **10 Commandments** which are **10 announcements and denouncements given to Prophet Moses and passed down through the holy text.**
- ⇒ The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the Sikh sacred text and is **treated as a living guru** (prophet) as it contains all the teachings of the 10 human gurus. It is known as the **'Everlasting Guru'.**

C) Non-religious sources



- ⇒ **Humanists/Atheists** rely on **multiple sources of authority** to guide them including **politics and law, science, reason, conscience, role models as well as some religious and non-religious texts.**
- ⇒ Someone such as **Sir David Attenborough** may not be bringing messages from God/religion but could still be **considered a prophet for the impact he has had on the world.**
- ⇒ Sir David continues to **denounce the ways humans damage and mistreat the environment and living things.**
- ⇒ He has made many **predictions about the effects of global warming; many of which have been proven accurate.**

7.5 Expressions of Belief

KEY CONSTRUCT

3.18 How can people express the spiritual?

3. Religious expression celebrates and reflects peoples beliefs and values.

Section A: Key Vocabulary

1. **Sacred** — something with religious significance.
2. **Pilgrimage** — a religious journey to a sacred place.
3. **Kosher** — Jewish word for food which are permitted.
4. **Kumbh Mela** — Hindu gathering at the River Ganges every 12 years.
5. **Jerusalem** — holy city for Jews and Christians.

Section B: Component Knowledge

1. Pilgrimages are religious journeys to sacred places like Jerusalem and Varanasi.
2. Some people express their beliefs through their diet or clothing.
3. Vegetarianism has religious significance to some people, for example Hindus.
4. Some religions consider certain animals to be either sacred or impure.
5. Religious celebrations such as Holi and Vaisakhi allow religious communities to celebrate their beliefs.

Section C: Core Content

A) Religious Journeys



- ⇒ Pilgrimage in most religions is not compulsory but the benefits can make it one of the most significant religious practices.
- ⇒ The **holiest place on earth for Jews is the city of Jerusalem**. According to Jewish tradition, **all of creation began in Jerusalem**. Many travel there to **pray at the Wailing Wall**.
- ⇒ **Jerusalem is also significant to Christians** as it is the place Jesus came in the days leading up to his death so has many sacred sites for Christians to visit—**Christians can follow the 'Via Dolorosa' (path of sorrow)**.
- ⇒ **Hindus generally pilgrimage to rivers, mountains and temples**. Many Hindus will travel to the city of **Varanasi**. It is believed to be the city where Shiva, the god of destruction, lived a long time ago.
- ⇒ The **Kumbh Mela** is the largest human gathering on earth (approximately 120million people visit over 49 days) and **takes place at Varanasi every 12 years**. **Hindus bathe in the River Ganges hoping to wash their sins away**.

B) Food



- ⇒ **Food that is allowed is called kosher**. Food that is not allowed is called treif or trefah. **Jews do not eat pork or shellfish among others**. They must also **keep dairy and meat products separate**.
- ⇒ Orthodox Jews keep all the rules. **Some even have separate utensils and fridges for the preparation and storage of meat and dairy products**. Reform Jews observe a selection of the laws.
- ⇒ Most **Hindus** will be **vegetarian** due to their belief in **ahimsa (non-violence)**.
- ⇒ **Cows** are also considered sacred in Hindu culture therefore **beef or dairy products will be prohibited**.

C) Celebrations



- ⇒ **Holi** is a **Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love, and new life**.
- ⇒ Some families hold religious ceremonies, but for many Holi is more a time for fun. It's a **colourful festival, with dancing, singing and throwing of powder paint and coloured water**.
- ⇒ Holi is also known as the "**festival of colours**".
- ⇒ **Vaisakhi**, also called Baisakhi, is the festival which celebrates the **founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa**, in 1699.
- ⇒ On Vaisakhi, Sikhs go to the **Gurdwara in the morning for a service**.
- ⇒ Afterwards, they have a **procession through the streets** with lots of singing, chanting and colourful clothes. The procession is called the **Nagar Kirtan**.
- ⇒ In the evening, Sikhs have a **special meal with family and friends**.