

RE Topic 1 World Religions

1. Christianity

Name of Followers: Christians
Place of Worship: Church
Holy Book/s: The Bible
Place of Origin: Jerusalem
Age of Religion: A little over 2000 years old
Key Festivals: Lent, Easter and Christmas
Key Beliefs: There is one God and Jesus is the son of God.
Key Teaching: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”
– Matthew 4:10 (NIV)
Belief shown: Worship is central in Christianity

3. Judaism

Name of Followers: Jews
Place of Worship: Synagogues
Holy Book/s: The Torah
Place of Origin: Roman Palestine
Age of Religion: Over 3500 years old
Key Festivals: Hanukkah
Key Beliefs: There is one God
Key Teaching: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
– *Deuteronomy 6:4 (Shema)*
•Belief shown: Monotheism — the central Jewish belief in one, indivisible God.

5. Buddhism

Name of Followers: Buddhists
Place of Worship: Buddhist Temple
Holy Book/s: The Tripitaka
Place of Origin: North-eastern India
Age of Religion: 2500 years old
Key Festivals: Wesak and Parinirvana Day.
Key Teaching: “All that we are is the result of what we have thought.”
– *Dhammapada, Verse 1*
•Belief shown: The power of the mind, karma, and personal responsibility in shaping one's life.

2. Islam

Name of Followers: Muslims
Place of Worship: Mosque
Holy Book/s: The Qur'an
Place of Origin: Mecca
Age of Religion: 1320 years old
Key Festivals: Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr
Key Beliefs: There is one God, the Arabic name for God is Allah and The Prophet Muhammad is the final messenger of God.
Key Teaching: “Indeed, Allah is with those who fear Him and those who are doers of good.”
– *Qur'an 16:128*
•Belief shown: Importance of righteousness and moral conduct.

4. Sikhism

Name of Followers: Sikhs
Place of Worship: Gurdwara
Holy Book/s: The Guru Granth Sahib
Place of Origin: Punjab
Age of Religion: 520 years old
Key Festivals: Vaisakhi
Key Teaching: “There is only one God. His name is Truth.”
– *Guru Granth Sahib, Japji Sahib, Verse 1*
•Belief shown: Monotheism, the eternal truth of God, and unity of creation.

6. Hinduism

Name of Followers: Hindus
Place of Worship: Mandir
Holy Book/s: The Veda
Place of Origin: India
Age of Religion: Over 4000 years old
Key Festivals: Diwali and Holi
Key Teaching: “You have the right to perform your duty, but not to the fruits of your actions.”
– *Bhagavad Gita 2:47*
•Belief shown: Dharma (duty), karma, and detachment from material outcomes.

7. Key Words

- **Religion** - A particular system of faith and worship.
- **Belief** - A conviction or acceptance that something is true or exists.
- **Faith** - Strong belief in something without the need for proof.
- **Deity** - A god or goddess.
- **Worship** - The act of showing reverence and devotion to a deity or religious practice.
- **Sacred** - Regarded with reverence and respect, often associated with religious significance.
- **Ritual** - A sequence of actions performed according to religious tradition.
- **Scripture** - Sacred writings or texts of a particular religion.
- **Prophet** - A person who is believed to have been chosen by a deity to deliver their messages.

8. Beliefs about God

- An Atheist does not follow any religion or have a belief in God. They may have a set of personal morals that guide how they act in their lives. Someone who is not convinced about whether God exists or not is called Agnostic.
- A person who believes in one god is called a monotheist; Christianity is an example of a monotheistic religion.
- A person who believes in multiple gods is called a polytheist; Hinduism is an example of a polytheistic religion.

RE Topic 2 Year 7 Creation

1. Creationism

Creationism is the belief that the story of creation as written in the Bible is the literal truth of creation. Some Christians who believe this are referred to as 'creationists'

Creation based on the events in the book of Genesis is in the Bible

Day 1 – Light and Darkness, Day and night

Day 2 – Atmosphere and Ocean

Day 3- Land, plants and trees

Day 4- Sun, Moon and Stars

Day 5- Birds and sea creatures

Day 6 – Land animals and humanity

Day 7 – Day of rest

Some Christians take the Bible literally (literalists) but some think of the Bible as a book of stories and metaphors to teach you are God and how to live. (Non-literalists)

2. Theories for God as the Creator.

The Cosmological arguments This is the theory that, as everything depends on something else for its existence.(For example, you depended on your parents in order to exist, and they depended on their parents, and so on.) that we can think the same of the universe and that even if the Big Bang Theory were accurate it relies on a cause and that cause must be God.

The Design Argument - This is an argument for the existence of God. It points to evidence that suggests our world works well - ie that it was designed in a specific way. The argument follows that if it was designed like this, then someone or something must have designed it.

3. Scientific Theory

- Scientists have looked at how the world works and how the universe is expanding and produced the Big Bang Theory. This theory is that the universe came from an explosion billions of years ago. As the explosion cooled the universe formed .
- This goes alongside the theory of evolution which suggests that life as we know it evolved over the course of millions of years.
- Although no one was around to see this happen, scientists look at the world around us and how life survives and used this as evidence for their theory.

6. Religious Teachings

1. The Beginning of Creation

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

– Genesis 1:1

Belief shown: God is the ultimate creator of everything — time, space, and matter.

2. Creation of Humanity

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

– Genesis 1:27

Belief shown: Human beings are made in the image of God (Imago Dei), giving them dignity and purpose.

3. Stewardship of Creation

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

– Genesis 2:15

Belief shown: Humans are given responsibility to look after creation — a foundation for Christian environmental ethics.

4. Key Words

Atheist – A person who does not believe in God

Theist – A person who does believe in God

Agnostic – A person who is not convinced either way about the existence of God

Creation – beliefs and ideas about how the universe and life came into existence

Literal – taking things word for word

Metaphor –something representative of symbolic of something else

5. Science Vs Religion

Albert Einstein said, "**Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.**"

This quote from a famous scientist suggests that science and religion should work together and don't have to be in conflict.

Some Christians view the Big Bang Theory and the Theory of Evolution as fact but also believe that God is the cause of these events taking place.

However, some people argue that science can explain everything without the need for religious belief and others believe that scientific theory goes against what is written in Holy Books and so it is wrong.

RE Topic 2 Year 7 Hinduism

1. Hinduism

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world, with no single founder. It believes in a supreme being, Brahman, and teaches that everything in the universe is connected. Hindus follow sacred texts like the Vedas and Bhagavad Gita and believe in karma (the idea that actions affect future lives). The goal is to achieve moksha, or liberation, by understanding one's true self and the divine. Hinduism includes practices like meditation, prayer, and festivals like Diwali and Holi.

2. Brahman

In Hinduism, Brahman is the ultimate power that creates and connects everything in the universe. It has no form and is everywhere, in all things and living beings. Brahman is endless and can't be fully explained because it is so big and mysterious. Hindus believe that understanding Brahman and realizing that it is part of everyone and everything can lead to spiritual freedom and happiness. It's the oneness of all life.

3. Trimurti

- The Trimurti in Hinduism is made up of three gods: Brahma, the creator; Vishnu, the preserver; and Shiva, the destroyer. These three gods work together to keep the universe in balance. Brahma creates life, Vishnu looks after it, and Shiva helps to remove things that no longer serve a purpose, making space for new beginnings. The Trimurti shows how creation, preservation, and destruction are all important parts of the world's cycle..

4. Diwali

- Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most significant celebrations in Hinduism. It commemorates the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.
- Hindus celebrate by lighting oil lamps (diyas), bursting fireworks, and offering prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The festival encourages the spreading of joy, prosperity, and inner peace while fostering unity among families and communities

5. Ganesh Chaturthi

- Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed god of wisdom, prosperity, and remover of obstacles.
- Hindus observe this festival by installing Ganesh idols in homes and public places, offering prayers, and performing rituals. The celebration includes singing devotional songs, making sweet offerings like Modak's, and engaging in cultural activities.
- The festival ends with a procession where the idols are immersed in water, symbolizing Ganesh's return to his celestial abode and the cycle of life.

6. Life After Death

- In Hinduism, life after death is viewed as a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara), driven by karma. The soul (atman) is eternal and transmigrates into different bodies based on past actions. Liberation (moksha) is the ultimate goal, achieved by transcending samsara and uniting with the divine. Spiritual practices, devotion, and self-realization help one attain moksha. Reincarnation continues until one attains enlightenment and is freed from the cycle, ending the soul's journey of rebirth.

7. Worship

- Hindu worship, called "puja," is a way to connect with the divine through prayers, offerings, and rituals. It can take place at home or in temples.
- Devotees often offer flowers, incense, and food to gods and goddesses, and chant mantras to seek blessings. Worship can involve meditation, singing hymns, or lighting lamps.
- Hindus believe that worship helps strengthen their relationship with the divine, brings peace, and helps them live a good life according to dharma (righteousness).

8. Key Words

- **Hinduism:** The major religious and cultural tradition of India
- **Deity:** A god or goddess.
- **Brahman:** The ultimate supreme being in Hinduism
- **Dharma:** The moral and ethical duties and responsibilities prescribed in Hinduism.
- **Karma:** The spiritual principle of cause and effect, where intent and actions of an individual influence their future.
- **Moksha:** Liberation from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth in Hinduism.
- **Puja:** A ritual or ceremony expressing devotion to a deity through prayer, song, and offerings.
- **Diwali:** A major Hindu festival known as the "Festival of Lights."
- **Sanskrit:** An ancient language of India, where many Hindu religious texts are written.
- **Guru:** A spiritual teacher or guide in Hinduism

9. Religious Teachings

Belief in the Eternal Soul (Atman)

"The soul is neither born, nor does it die. It is not slain when the body is slain."

– Bhagavad Gita 2:20

Belief shown: The atman (soul) is eternal and indestructible — central to the Hindu understanding of life, death, and rebirth (samsara).

Belief in Karma (Cause and Effect)

"As a man sows, so shall he reap."

– Bhagavad Gita 4:17

Belief shown: Every action has consequences. Good actions lead to good results, and bad actions to suffering — the law of karma.

RE Topic 4 Year 7 Belonging

1. Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament in the Christian faith, practiced by various denominations around the world. It is considered a rite of initiation into the Christian Church and symbolises the cleansing of sins and the rebirth of an individual into a new life in Christ.

2. Church

A church is a place where Christians gather to worship, pray and learn about their faith. It is usually a peaceful and sacred space, with stained glass windows, a pulpit and pews for the congregation. Church services may include singing hymns, listening to sermons and taking part in Communion. Church buildings can vary in size and architectural style, but they are all places where people come together to connect with their spirituality.

3. Pilgrimage

- A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place for religious or spiritual reasons.
- Every year, thousands of Christians travel to Lourdes, a town in France. They go there to visit a famous shrine, which is believed to have healing powers. People pray, light candles, and bathe in the holy water. It is a place of faith and hope for many believers;.

4. Shahadah

The Shahadah is the Islamic declaration of faith, recited by Muslims as part of their daily prayers. It states, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger." This declaration is considered the foundation of Islam and affirming it is an important part of being a Muslim. Muslims believe that by reciting the Shahadah sincerely and with conviction, they are joining the Muslim community and submitting themselves to Allah's will.

5. Salah

Salah is a fundamental pillar of Islam. It is a form of worship that Muslims perform five times a day. It involves specific movements and recitations, such as standing, bowing, and prostrating with focus and humility. Salah provides an opportunity for Muslims to connect with Allah and seek His guidance and mercy. It is a significant aspect of a Muslim's spiritual and religious journey.

7. Sawm

Sawm is the fourth pillar of Islam. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. They abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during daylight hours. Sawm is seen as a time of self-discipline, reflection, and increased devotion to Allah. Fasting during Ramadan is obligatory for all adult Muslims unless they are ill, pregnant or traveling.

9. Belonging

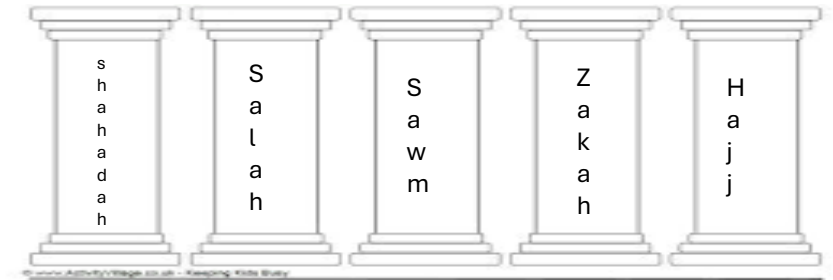
Religion plays a significant role in many people's lives. It provides a sense of belonging and community, allowing individuals to connect with others who share their beliefs and values. This shared sense of belonging aids in the development of spiritual and moral growth, fostering a deeper understanding of oneself and the world around them. The act of belonging in religion provides comfort and support, creating a strong foundation for individuals to explore their faith and find meaning in their lives.

6. Zakah

The term "zakah" refers to a form of compulsory giving in Islam. It involves donating a percentage of one's wealth to help those in need and promote social justice. Zakah is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is an important aspect of Muslim faith and community.

8. Hajj

Hajj is the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and a mandatory religious duty for Muslims. Hajj is a time where Muslims from all over the world gather together to worship and fulfil their spiritual obligations.



Religious Teachings

1. Baptism

Mark 16:16

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Meaning – Some Christians believe you need to be baptised to go to Heaven.

2. Sawm (Fasting during Ramadan)

Qur'an – Surah Al-Baqarah 2:183

"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous."

Meaning – fasting is a duty of all Muslims who are able.

RE Topic 5 Faith and Justice

1. Parables of Jesus

Jesus often taught using short stories called parables. These stories had hidden meanings that taught important lessons about kindness, forgiveness, and love.

4. Charity

In Christianity, charity is considered a fundamental aspect of faith. Followers are encouraged to show love and compassion towards others, especially those in need. The Bible teaches that giving to the poor and helping those less fortunate is a way to demonstrate God's love and fulfil one's moral duty. Christians believe that acts of charity not only benefit the recipient but also bring spiritual rewards to the giver. Through charitable deeds, individuals aim to emulate the kindness and generosity shown by Jesus Christ during his teachings and ministry. The concept of charity is deeply rooted in Christian ethics, promoting selflessness and altruism as essential virtues in living a righteous life.

5. Christian Teachings

Teaching	Meaning
"Love Your Neighbour"	Your neighbour is everyone you come across. You should show love to everyone
"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."	If a Christian accepts forgiveness from God, then they should show forgiveness and love to others
"Forgive 70x7"	Jesus taught Christians that you should not forgive someone just once or seven times but always
"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."	Anyone who helps people in need will be repaid in the afterlife with Heaven.

2. Parable of the good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'^[a]; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'^[b]"
²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

In this Parable, a man is robbed, beaten, and left for dead on the side of the road. Several people pass by but do not help him. A Samaritan, though, stops to assist the injured man, showing kindness and compassion. This story teaches us about the importance of helping others in need, regardless of differences.

3. Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

In this Parable, Jesus teaches about kindness and compassion. He talks about separating people, like a shepherd does with sheep and goats. The kind ones, who help those in need, are like the sheep who are rewarded. Those who ignore others are like the goats who face consequences.