

Topic 1: Why do humans always want more?

Aspiring to think deeply about human desire, belief and what makes life meaningful.

1 KEY VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Desire	a strong wish.
Consumerism	belief happiness comes from buying.
Spirituality	seeking meaning.
Transcendence	beyond ordinary experience.
Worship	showing devotion to God.
Craving (Tanha)	desire that causes suffering (Buddhism).
Atman	the eternal self (Hindu Dharma).
Moksha	freedom from rebirth.
Ummah	global Muslim community.
Seva	selfless service (Sikhism).
Humanism	based on reason and wellbeing.

2 HUMAN DESIRE



- Seek meaning and survival.
- Many people look for happiness, belonging and purpose.
- Consumerism suggests possessions bring fulfilment.
- Religion teaches material things cannot fully satisfy.
- Different worldviews explain human desire in different ways.

"Happiness is not something ready made.
It comes from your own actions."
— Dalai Lama

"Wealth is not lasting. What is lasting
is a good character."
— Dhammapada 204

3 WHY DO HUMANS ALWAYS WANT MORE? DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS

Christianity	Buddhism	Hindu Dharma	Islam	Sikhism	Humanism
• Long for God. • Earthly things don't satisfy. • Worship and prayer give meaning. • Eternal life with God.	• Craving causes suffering. • Attachment brings pain. • Letting go brings peace. • Nirvana ends suffering.	• Atman longs for union with Brahman. • Material things don't satisfy. • Moksha ends the cycle of rebirth.	• Created to worship Allah. • True contentment comes from remembering Allah. • Ummah helps us focus on serving God.	• Remember God. Serve others. • Too much focus on material success distracts from truth. • Seva helps people live meaningful lives.	• Seek meaning through relationships, achievement and helping others. • Meaning comes from human choices and responsibility.
"The Lord is my shepherd: I lack nothing." Psalms 23:1	"From craving springs sorrow, from craving springs fear." Dhammapada 216	"That which is eternal is not attained by words." Mundaka Upanishad 3.1.5	"Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest." Qur'an 13:28	"By helping others, one obtains one's own." Guru Nanak (Guru Granth Sahib, Ang 369)	"Good without a God. Meaningful without religion." Humanists UK

4 COMPARING WORLDVIEWS

What gives life purpose?	Religious responses	Non-religious responses
	• From God or the divine. • Living righteously. • Worship, prayer and service. • Union with God or spiritual liberation.	• From human choices and values. • Relationships and achievement. • Make the world better for others.
Why do humans want more?	• Deep spiritual desires. • Long for God and peace. • Material things don't fully satisfy. • Letting go brings fulfilment.	• Influenced by culture, advertising and society. • Compare with others. • Seek happiness and success.

5 KEY PEOPLE

	Jesus Taught that loving God and loving your neighbour gives life meaning. Source: Matthew 22:37–39
	Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha) Taught that craving causes suffering and can be overcome. Source: Dhammapada / Four Noble Truths
	Guru Nanak Taught equality, service and remembrance of God. Source: Guru Granth Sahib

6 KNOWLEDGE SUMMARY

	Religions and worldviews explain why humans seek more than material possessions.
	Christianity teaches humans are created for a relationship with God.
	Buddhism teaches that craving prevents lasting happiness.
	Hindu Dharma teaches humans have an eternal self seeking liberation.
	Islam teaches that purpose comes through worshipping Allah.
	Sikhism teaches that serving others helps people live meaningful lives.
	Humanists believe meaning is created through human choices and relationships.

