

YEAR 7 – SPRING TERM KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER; ASKING QUESTIONS

KEYWORDS

Atheism/Atheist The belief that God does not exist

Theism/Theist The belief that God does exist

Agnostic If you are not sure whether or not God exists

Humanism The belief that Humans are at the centre of morality and scientific understanding of the world – without the need for God.

Omnibenevolent God is all-loving

Omnipotent– God is all powerful

Ultimate/Big Questions Questions with no scientific answer

Who created the world? In Hinduism they have many stories to illustrate this but the main focus is that it was created. Either from the locks of Shiva's hair through which the waters of the Goddess Ganga flow or in the creating hands of Brahma. Significantly they believe that the universe itself is reincarnated and this is one of many.

The Abrahamic faiths specifically see the one God as the creator of everything. It is them who planned for and made the world. It is God's creation; we are simply the stewards.

Is there Life After Death? Humanists would say that death is the end, we live on through memories but in the end even they fade. Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs all argue that this is not the only life we have. We are **reincarnated**. Sikhs believe we eventually go to Heaven or Hell but for the others it is nirvana which they hope to reach by breaking free from the cycle and reaching enlightenment. For the three Abrahamic faiths – Christianity, Islam and Judaism our entry into the afterlife is based on our actions in this one life and we go to Heaven or Hell.

Why do we suffer? All religions and non-religious perspectives argue that suffering is a part of life. For Buddhists it is because we have bad karma and we are attached to things so we feel pain if we experience loss, for example but for Christians our suffering is linked to free will. We use our free will badly - like Adam and Eve in the Genesis story who brought sin and suffering into the world.

HUMANISM

in a nutshell

1. Putting **human beings** and other **living things** at the centre of your moral outlook

2. Seeing the world as a **natural place** and looking to **science** and **reason** to make sense of it

3. Promoting and supporting human **flourishing** across all frontiers, and championing **human rights** for everyone



And that's about it.

ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

R.E. is a subject which encourages us to think philosophically about the world around us. Who are we and where did we come from?

- Do we have a soul?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Who created the universe?
- Why do we suffer?
- Is there life after death?
- Is there life on other planets?

ATHEISM

Atheists do not believe in God for a number of reasons. Firstly, they argue that belief in God is not logical as there is no evidence to support this belief. Science gives us all of the answers to support why and how the universe was created and how the world was formed. Some find it really hard to believe in a God because there is so much suffering in the world. Why would God let us suffer if he existed?

THEISM

In the world here are 2.1 billion Christians, 1.9 billion Muslims and 1.1 billion Hindus. Theists believe in God because they feel the presence all around them, when they pray or when they feel lonely. They might believe that God has saved them or they have experienced God through a miracle or through awe and wonder of the world around them. They often believe in an all-powerful creator who is responsible for the creation of the world and who loves us.

AGNOSTICISM

Some people are not sure what to believe about God. They feel they need more certain proof about God's existence. There are so many religions which one is right?

ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

- **Religious Experience** - Arguments for the existence of God: religious experience. A religious experience has significance for the person who experiences it. It involves a sense of the **holy** or **numinous**. A person may say they had personally 'seen', 'heard' or 'felt' God. The experience cannot be proved, but the individual will be convinced of the reality of what has happened. It might lead to a radical change in behaviour or outlook on life. Sometimes a person has a conversion experience so that they move from being an atheist or agnostic to being a theist. For example – when Moses saw the burning bush or Saul on the road to Damascus.