



Unit 1: Citizenship – Identity & Diversity

What religions and worldviews shape the UK?

1. What is a worldview and how are they formed?

- Our worldview relates to the beliefs, values and stories that collectively inform the way we live and behave.
- We all have a worldview even if we are not religious or don't believe in God, as we all stand somewhere.
- A person's worldview can be formed by beliefs about:
The purpose of life - What we mean by a 'good life'-
The values we should live by and the skills and qualities that we should have – How we should spend our time -
How we should treat loved ones - How to treat strangers or enemies - How to treat animals, the earth and the environment - God, religion, spirituality, ghosts -
Views about life, death, afterlife - Views about wealth, poverty, charity - Views about the laws of the land and how the communities we live in should be run.
A person's worldview can be influenced by many different factors including: age, family and upbringing, friends, where they live, culture, life events and experiences, education, media and religion.
- One aspect of a person's worldview is whether, or not, they believe in a God. We might describe ourselves as:
 - **Theist** - Someone who believes in God(s)
 - **Atheist** - Someone who does not believe in God(s)
 - **Agnostic** - Someone who is unsure if there is a God(s)

3. What are the Abrahamic Faiths?

- Judaism (1st - 1500BCE – 3500 years ago)
- Christianity (2nd - 30CE – 2000 years ago)
- Islam (3rd - 610 CE – 1400 years ago)
- Symbols of each faith

How are the faiths connected:

- Monotheistic – believe in 1 God
- Traced back to Abraham (Patriarch) & the Hebrews
- Revelations or prophecy is important
- Linked through the city of Jerusalem
- The person of Jesus connects the faiths
- All three believe God is omnipotent (all- powerful), omniscient (all knowing), omnibenevolent (all loving)

5. What are the Dharmic Faiths?

- Hinduism (1st - 2000-3000 BCE - 4k to 5k years ago)
- Buddhism (2nd - 560 BCE - 2500 years ago)
- Sikhism (3rd - 1500 CE - 500 years ago)
- Symbols of each faith
- The oldest of the 6 world religions we will study is Hinduism and the youngest is Sikhism

How are the faiths connected:

- All three originate from the Indian sub-continent
- The concepts of Dharma, Samsara, Karma, Moksha
- Celebrate similar festivals e.g. Diwali

2. What is a religion and how do we study them?

- From the Latin *religio*, meaning to bind or connect,
- Historically, humans have always asked big questions about their place in the universe and what it means to live a good life whilst we are here in this world.
- Over time, religion has developed in response to these big questions about life, truth and meaning.
- Religion, at its heart, is supposed to be a great uniter that enables all who participate in it to seek and experience a sense of truth, purpose and belonging.
- There are many famous examples of individuals and groups inspired by the religious faith who have been a force for good in the world in which we live.
- However there has also been examples of where individuals and groups have come into conflict with one another due to contrasting religious beliefs.
- Consequently, religious belief can significantly shape a person's worldview and the way they live their lives.
- Though hard to define, religion seems to be a universal experience and need.
- Of the nearly 7 billion people on Earth only just over 1 billion people say they do not believe in a God or do not believe in a specific religion.
- The study of religion is made up of several branches of knowledge: theology, philosophy, social sciences.

4. What are key features of the Abrahamic Faiths?

Judaism: Followers referred to as Jews – Famous holy book is the Torah - Founder is Abraham - Place of worship is synagogue – Festivals include Pesach & Rosh Hashanah

Christianity: Followers referred to as Christians - Famous Holy book is the Bible - Founder is Jesus – Place of worship is a church - Festivals include Christmas & Easter.

Islam: Followers referred to as Muslims - Holy book is Qur'an - Founder is prophet Muhammad - Place of worship is a mosque – Festivals include Eid-ul-Fitr / Adha

6. What are key features of the Dharmic religions?

Hinduism: Followers referred to as Hindus - Famous holy book is the Vedas - No known founder - place of worship is a Mandir - Festivals include Diwali & Holi.

Buddhism: Followers referred to as Buddhists – Famous holy book is the Tripitaka – Founder is Prince Siddhartha Gautama – Place of worship is the Buddhist Temple or Monastery – Festivals include Wesak & Bodhi Day.

Sikhism: Followers referred to as Sikhs – Famous holy book is Guru Granth Sahib - Founder is Guru Nanak - Place of worship is gurdwara - Festivals include Vaisakhi.