

Religions of the World

Do Now:

Compose your own dictionary definition of what religion is.

Definition of Religion...

“Religion is the whole complexus of attitudes, convictions, emotions, gestures, rituals, beliefs and institutions by which we come to term with, and express, our most fundamental relationship with Reality (God and the created order, perceived as coming forth from God’s creative hand).”

Nine Dimensions of Religion

There are many ways to analyse a religion.

Here are nine dimensions that can help you to analyse a religion. Note that these are imperative in the Unit Standard Assessment at the conclusion of the Unit.

- Sacred Texts – The holy books of the religion
- Sacred Beliefs – The holy beliefs of the group
- Sacred Symbols – The symbols they hold holy
- Sacred Rituals – Their Religious Ceremonies
- Sacred Ethics – The moral laws of a religion
- Religious Social Structure – The social organisation of the religion
- Religious Experience – The personal experience of the believer
- Sacred Stories – The religious stories which explain meaning for a religion
- Religious History – The history of this religion over the ages

Buddhism

- Body dies the soul goes onto perfection nirvana.
- Five precepts and the Ten Good Deeds.
- Prayer or Puja is the way to enlightenment.
Five body spaces symbolise the five elements.

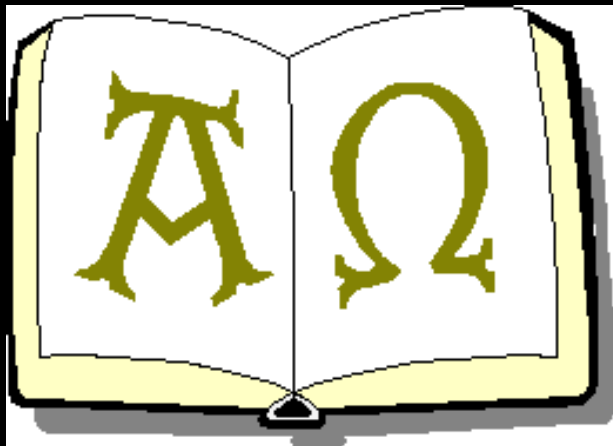
Hinduism

- Body dies the soul goes onto perfection moksha.
- The Yama things you should not do and the Niyama things that you can do.
- Puja is done daily

Sacred Texts

- The Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Torah, Talmud, Ten Commandments
- Qur'an
- Pali Canon, Nirvana Sutara, Lotus Sutra
- The Ramayana, The Rig Veda, Upanishads

Sacred Symbols



Sacred Symbols

- Footprints of Buddha, Begging Bowl, Stupas
- Hands in Prayer, Lotus (pandma), Lotus feet (of guru or diety), Aum
- Star of David, Menorah, a kippah or yarmulke
- Prayer beads, crescent moon, hijab

Sacred Rituals

- Wesak, Dharma Day, Para nirvana Day
- Diwali, Navarati, Holi
- Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (Day Of Atonement).
- Ramadan, Hajj, Festival of Ashura, Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Power)

Sacred Ethics

- Ten Commandments
- Modern ethics
- Bio-ethics

Religious Social Structure

- Headed by the Pope
- Cardinals and Bishops
- Priests and Religious
- Laity (us)

Religious Experience

- Personal Revelation
- Mystical Experience
- Pilgrimage Experiences (e.g. to Lourdes)

Sacred Stories

- The Story of Creation
- Noah's Arc
- Parables
- Not Jesus though... that's fact not a story!

Religious History

- Jewish Origins
- Roman influence in Church's Infancy
- Middle Ages
- Reformation and Counter-Reformation
- Second Vatican Council

Give me meaning

- Find the way to enlightenment
- Purify oneself collecting both good and bad karma on the way
- One God Allah
- We are the chosen people

The Guidelines

- Follow the eightfold path to Nirvana
- The Vedas contain all instruction
- The five Pillars
- The Torah