

Religion and Non Religion

world-views
visual religion
relations of religions towards or with each other
the economy and capitalism
cinema and film
body
belief
violence
ritual
history
ethics
multiculturalism
public life
politics
society
women
art / arts
gender
relations between tradition and innovation
mysticism
myth
shamanism
religious texts
death / dying
interaction of religion
globalization
culture

Studies of Religion Syllabus

The focus of this study is the human search for meaning through religion and non-religion.

- The religious dimension in human history.
- New religious expressions.
- Non-Religious Worldviews.
- The Difference between Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews.

Section I

Part B

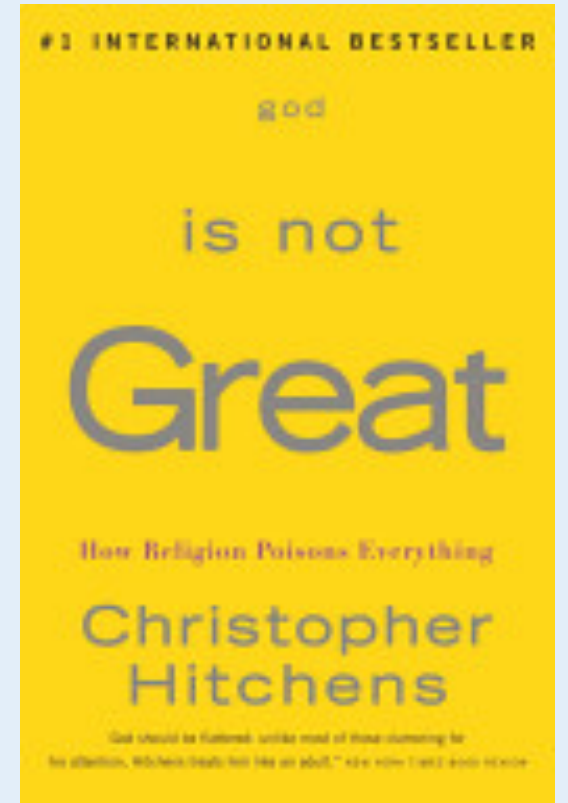
10 x multiple choice questions
1 x 5 mark response



Raised as Christians.
Identified as atheists as young men.



Peter Hitchens
Christian,
journalist and
author



A detail from Rogier van der Weyden's Last Judgment (15th century)



Christopher Hitchens

Atheist, author, journalist

Died aged 62 in 2011 after a battle with cancer.

'No evidence or argument has yet been presented which would change my mind.
But I like surprises'.

He likened God to a 'celestial dictatorship, a kind of divine North Korea'.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/christopher-hitchens-widow-on-his-death-god-never-came-up/>



12. DATE OF BIRTH AND AGE
If you do not know, give your best estimate.
For _____
Date of birth _____
Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Age _____

SPIRITUAL BUT *NOT* RELIGIOUS

13. What is your personal belief system?

- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Protestant
- ☒ Spiritual But Not Religious
- ☐ None of the Above.

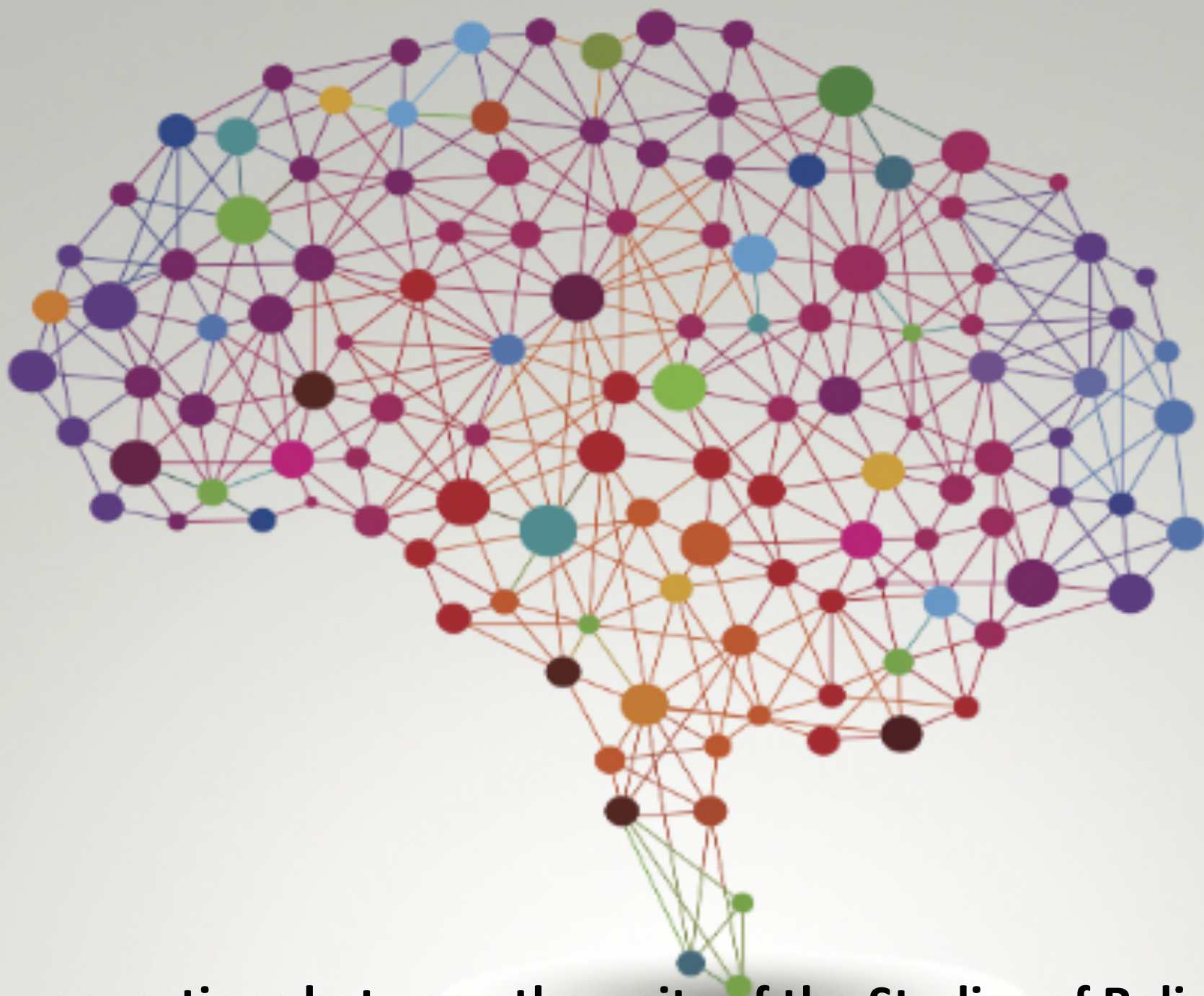
14. MARITAL STATUS

No religion

	2001	2011
Australia	15%	22%
New Zealand	30%	41%
England/Wales	15%	25%
Canada	16%	24%

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9BmvD7nB94>

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Main+Features30Nov+2013>



Make connections between the units of the Studies of Religion syllabus.

Identify the religious dimension in human history



<http://canvas-of-light.blogspot.com.au/2010/07/thai-spirits-hdr.html>

Animism

The belief that natural objects, natural phenomena and the universe itself possess souls or consciousness. The Latin word 'animus' means "soul" or "life."

Sir Edward Tyler was a British anthropologist (1832-1917) in his book *Primitive Culture*, described it animism as the "idea of pervading life and will in nature".

Shinto is an example of animism.



Polytheism

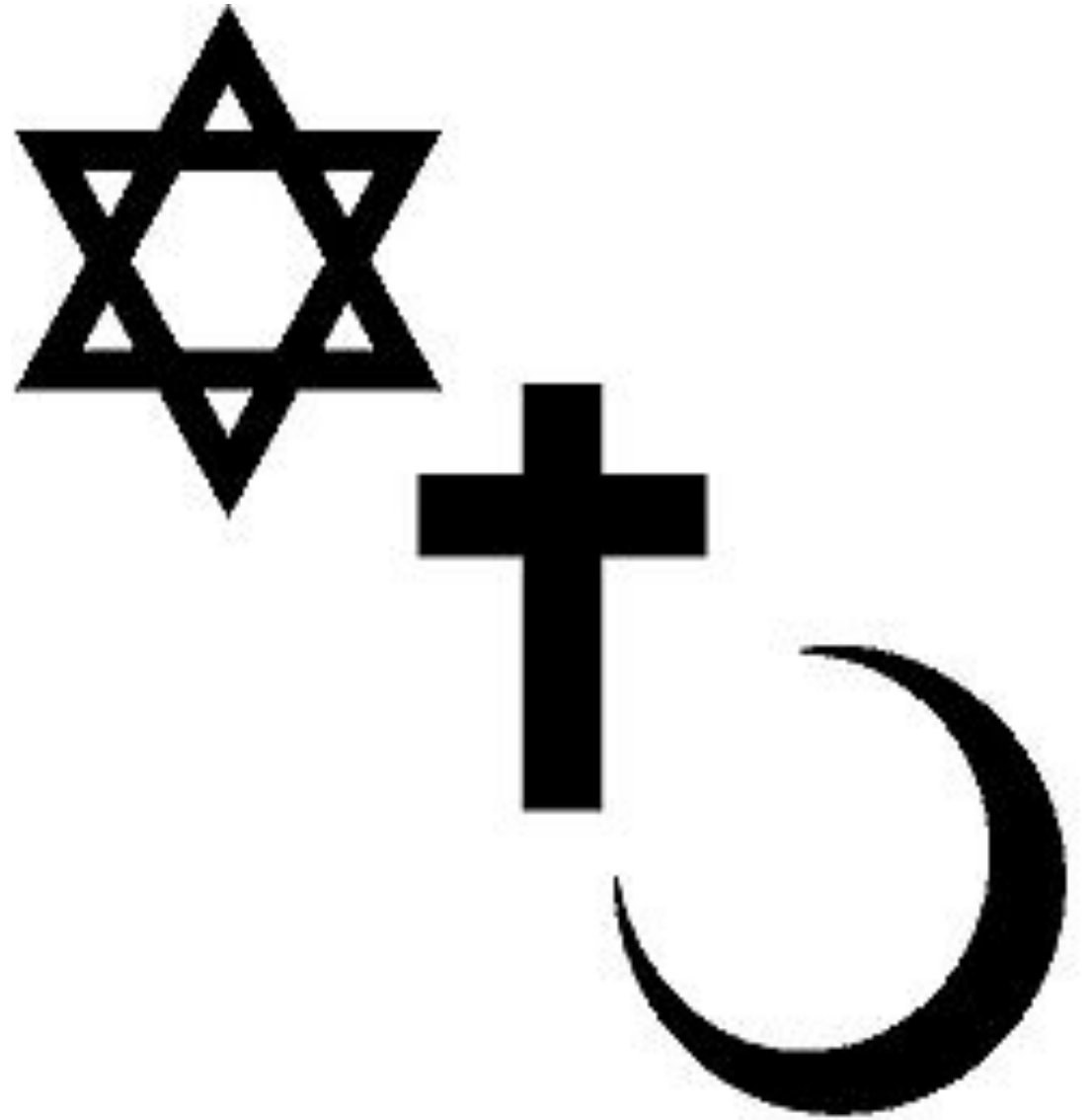
Polytheism is the belief in and worship of many gods. These gods are distinguished by particular functions, and often take on human characteristics. This was particularly true in ancient Greece and Rome. Ancient Egypt gods take on the form and characteristics of objects found in nature, including trees, sacred herbs, cattle, animals and animal--human hybrids. Hinduism is an example of polytheism



Monotheism

Monotheism is the belief in a single all-powerful, creator god or deity.

The Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are widely practiced forms of monotheism.



Evaluate the place of the religious dimension in human history to provide:

- meaning and purpose for the individual
- social cohesion
- social transformation



What is the meaning and purpose of the religious dimension for the individual?
How does the religious dimension provides answers to the enduring questions of human existence?

Malala Yousafzai

Pakistan

1997-

<http://nobelpeaceprize.org/>



The Reformation

Cohesion?



Transformation?



The "Saffron Uprising" was a protest by tens of thousands of Buddhist monks, nuns and civilian activists, 2007



Monks opposing the opening of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation offices in Myanmar, 2012



Transformation

Prince Charles shakes hands with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams during tour of Ireland
20 May 2015.



Pope describes Palestinian leader as 'an angel of peace'
16 May 2015.



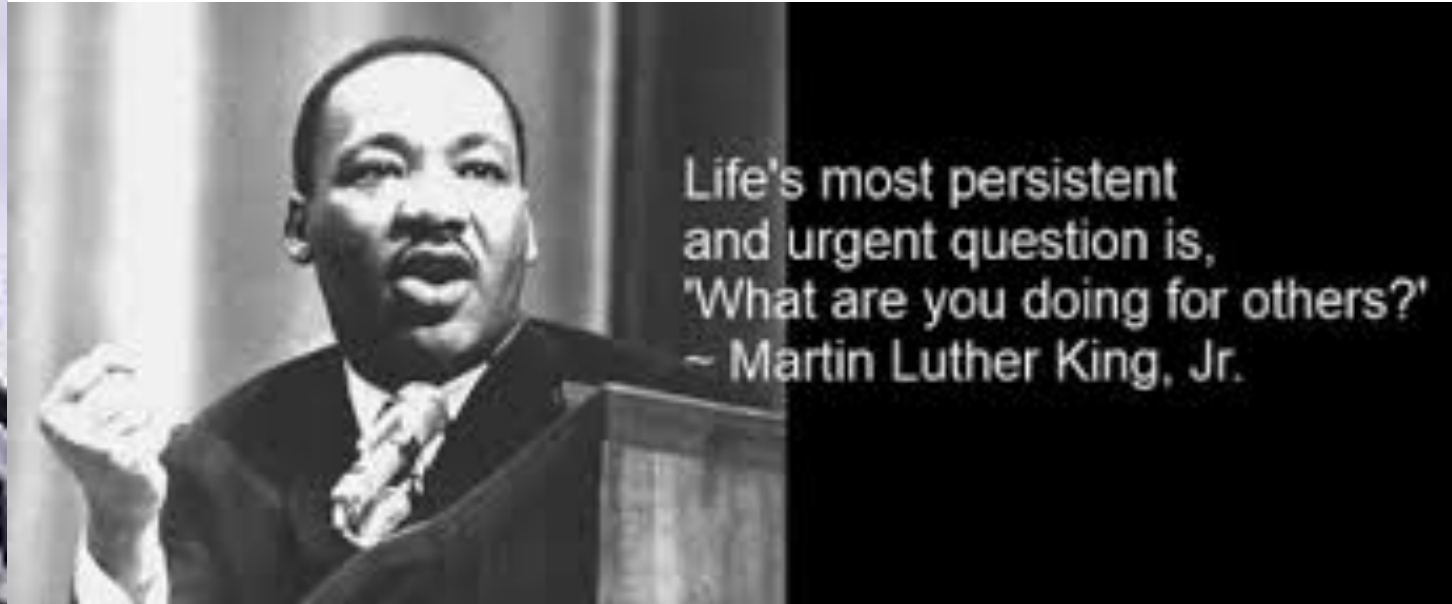
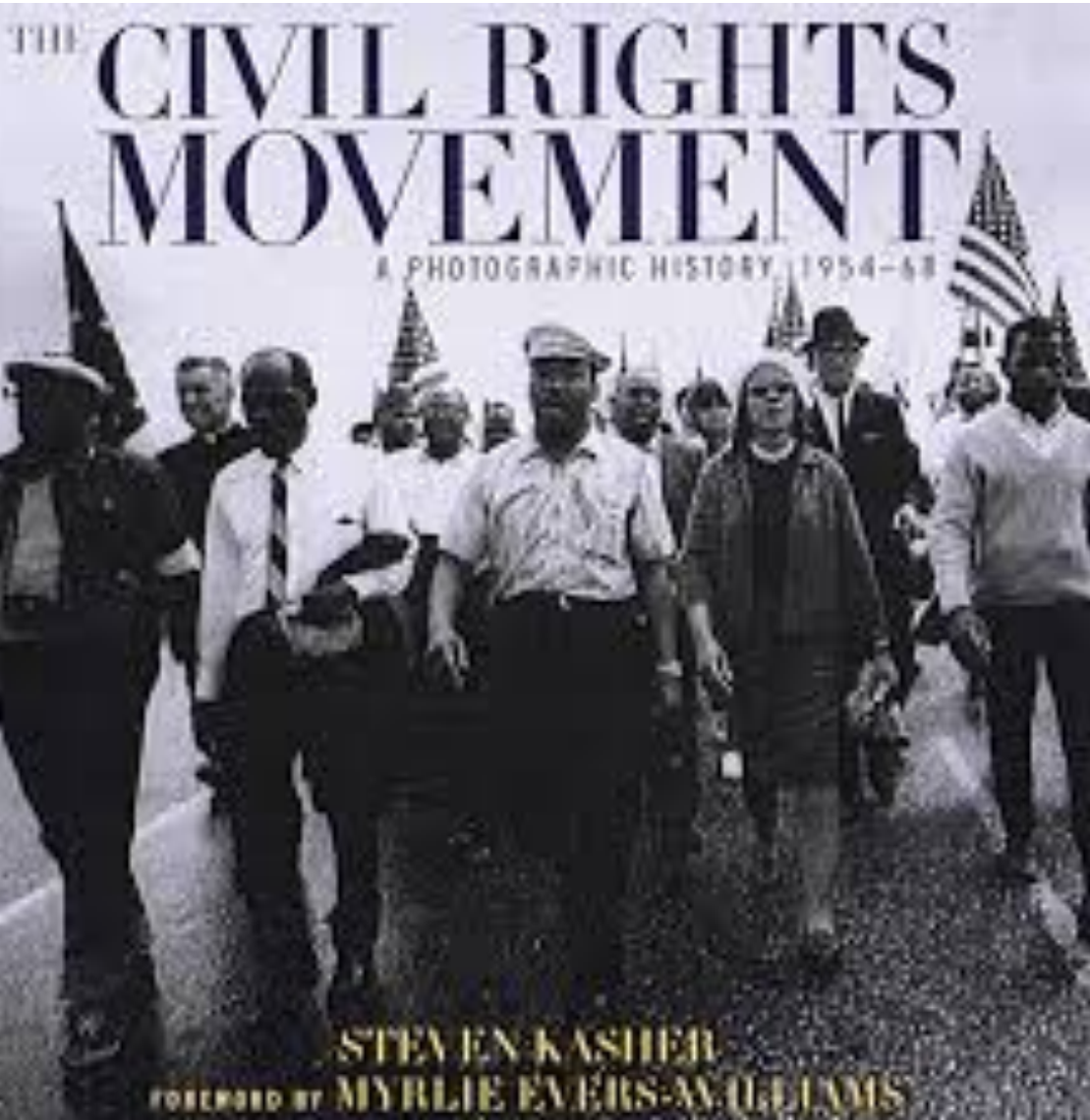
Pope Francis: 'Bring All Religions Together'

January 2015

“All of us are called (by God) to be free, all are called to be sons and daughters, and each, according to his or her own responsibilities, is called to combat modern forms of enslavement. From every people, culture and religion, let us join our forces.”



Transformation



Life's most persistent
and urgent question is,
"What are you doing for others?"
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.





Transformation?



NO FUTURE WITHOUT FORGIVENESS

*'Desmond Tutu has
conveyed our
common pain and
sorrow, our hope
and confidence in
the future'*

NELSON
MANDELA

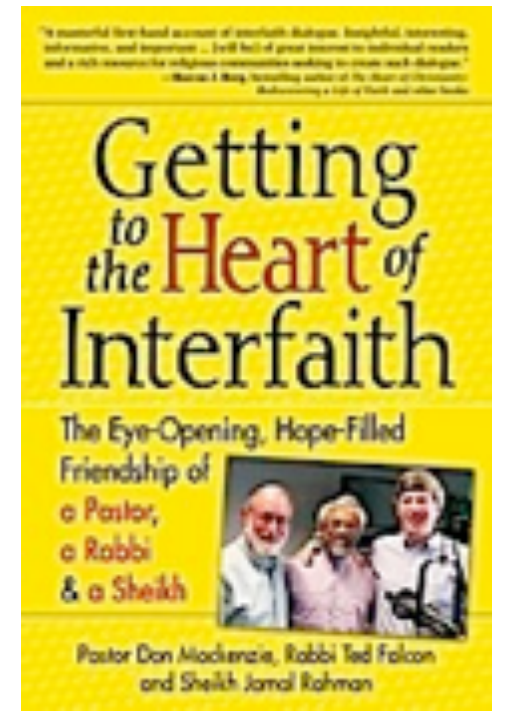
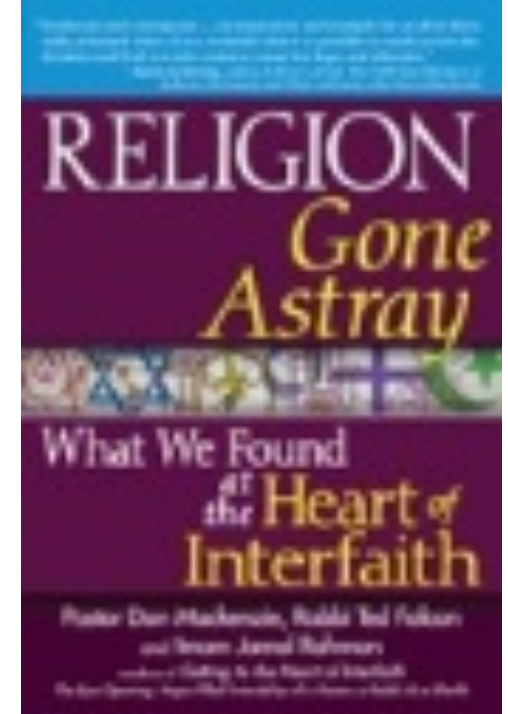
DESMOND TUTU

The Parents Circle Families Forum

Bereaved families of Jews and Palestinians

- To create a framework of reconciliation between the 2 peoples that takes into account that any peace agreement must include an infrastructure for the process of reconciliation.
- To work towards an end to violence and towards achieving an accepted political agreement.
- To influence the public and the political decision makers to choose dialogue and the path of peace over violence and war in order to achieve a just settlement based on empathy and understanding.
- To avoid the use of bereavement for further violence and retribution.

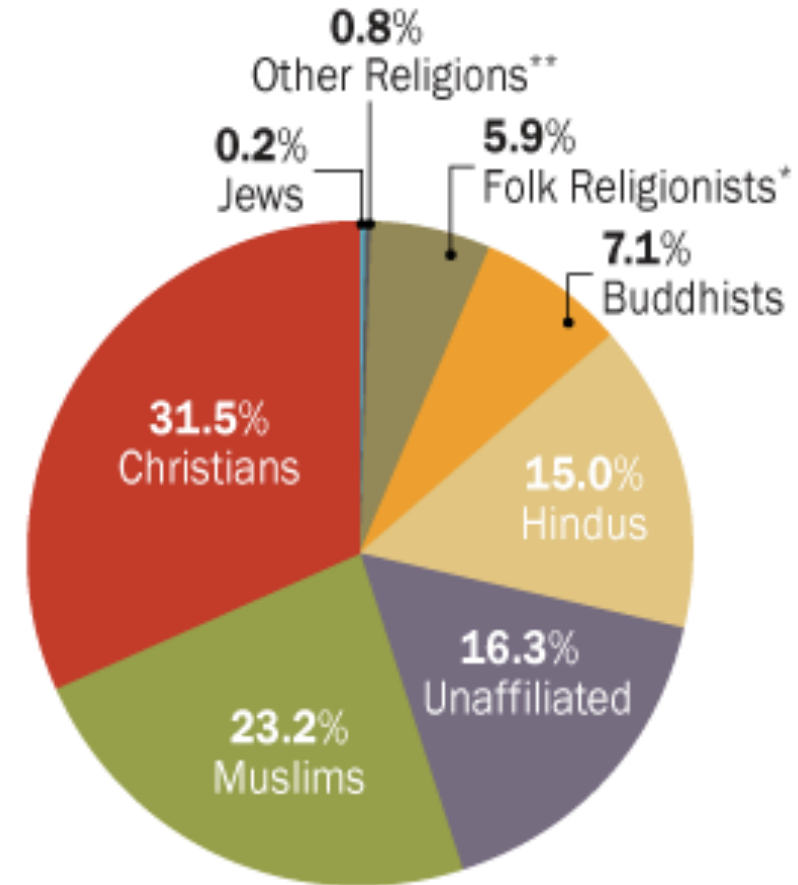
The Interfaith Amigos



Global Distribution of the Five Major Religious Traditions

Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

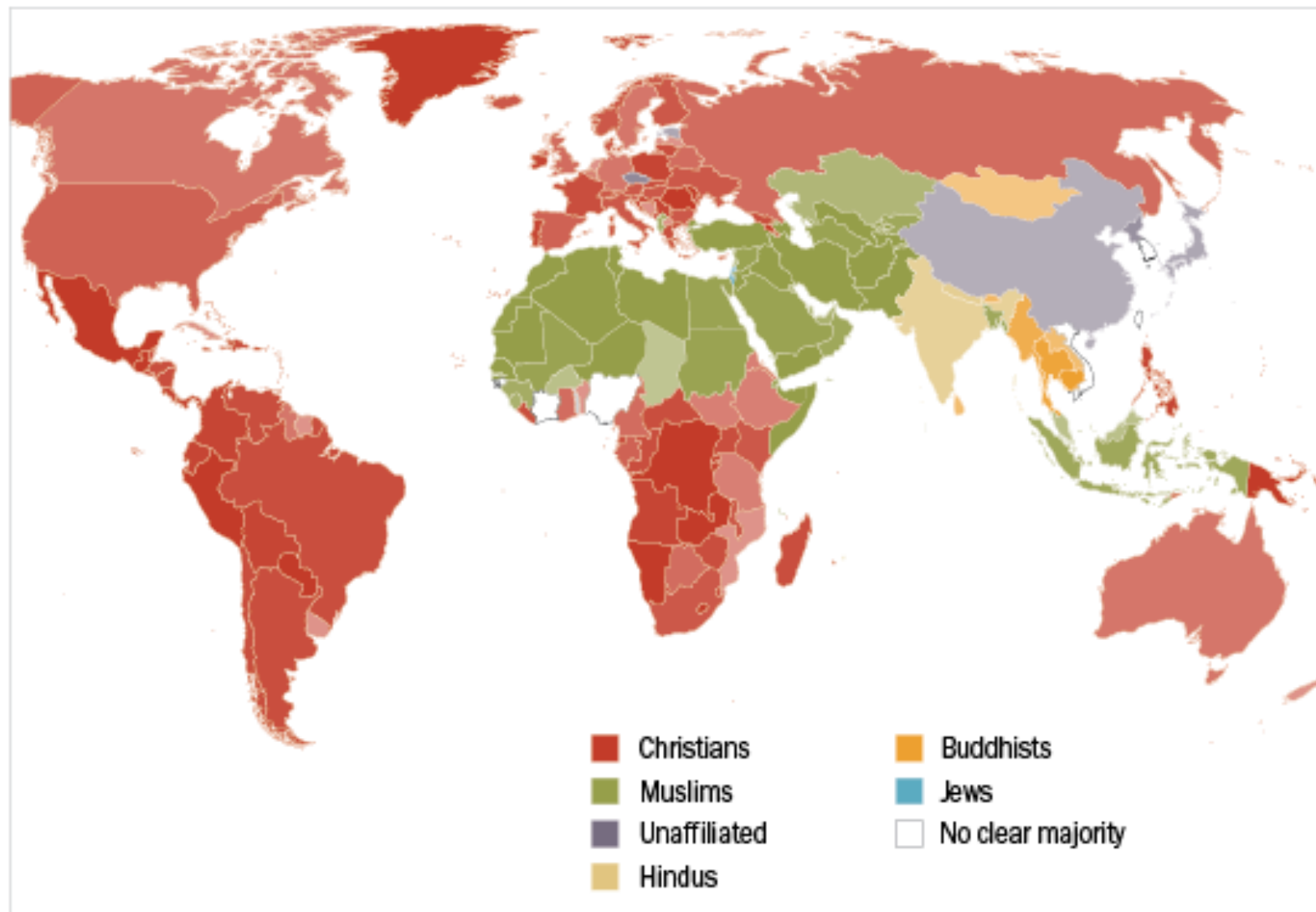
**Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life •
Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

Majority Religion, by Country

Countries are colored according to the majority religion. Darker shading represents a greater prevalence of the majority religion.



Nine countries have no clear religious majority: Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Macau, Nigeria, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo and Vietnam. There are no countries in which adherents of folk religions make up a clear majority. There are also no countries in which followers of other religions (such as Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans or Zoroastrians) make up a clear majority.

New religious expressions

Emerging movements in Western culture characterised by an individual approach to spiritual exploration.

Includes a loose network of seekers, teachers and healers often incorporating elements of ancient and indigenous religions such as Wicca, Native American spiritualities.

The term 'new' is a misnomer as many of the practices are in fact centuries old.

And developments within established religious traditions.



Theology on Tap



Pentecostal Churches

[Hillsong](#)



[Anglican Cathedral of Second Life](#)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JI3gL_AbRTA

Recognise the reasons for the rise of new religious expressions as people:

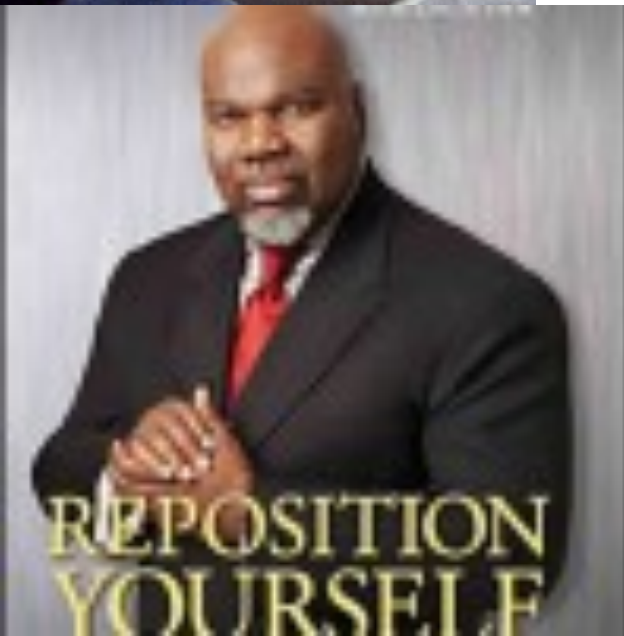
- search for personal fulfilment
“It’s all about me”
- seek ethical guidelines
“What is good for me is good, isn’t it?”
- seek to clarify their relationship with society
“What is my purpose in life?” “How do I fit in?”

The influences on the growth of new religious expressions and spiritualities:

- Materialism
- Scientific progress
- Growth of ecological awareness
- Disenchantment with 'traditional' religious practice and guidance

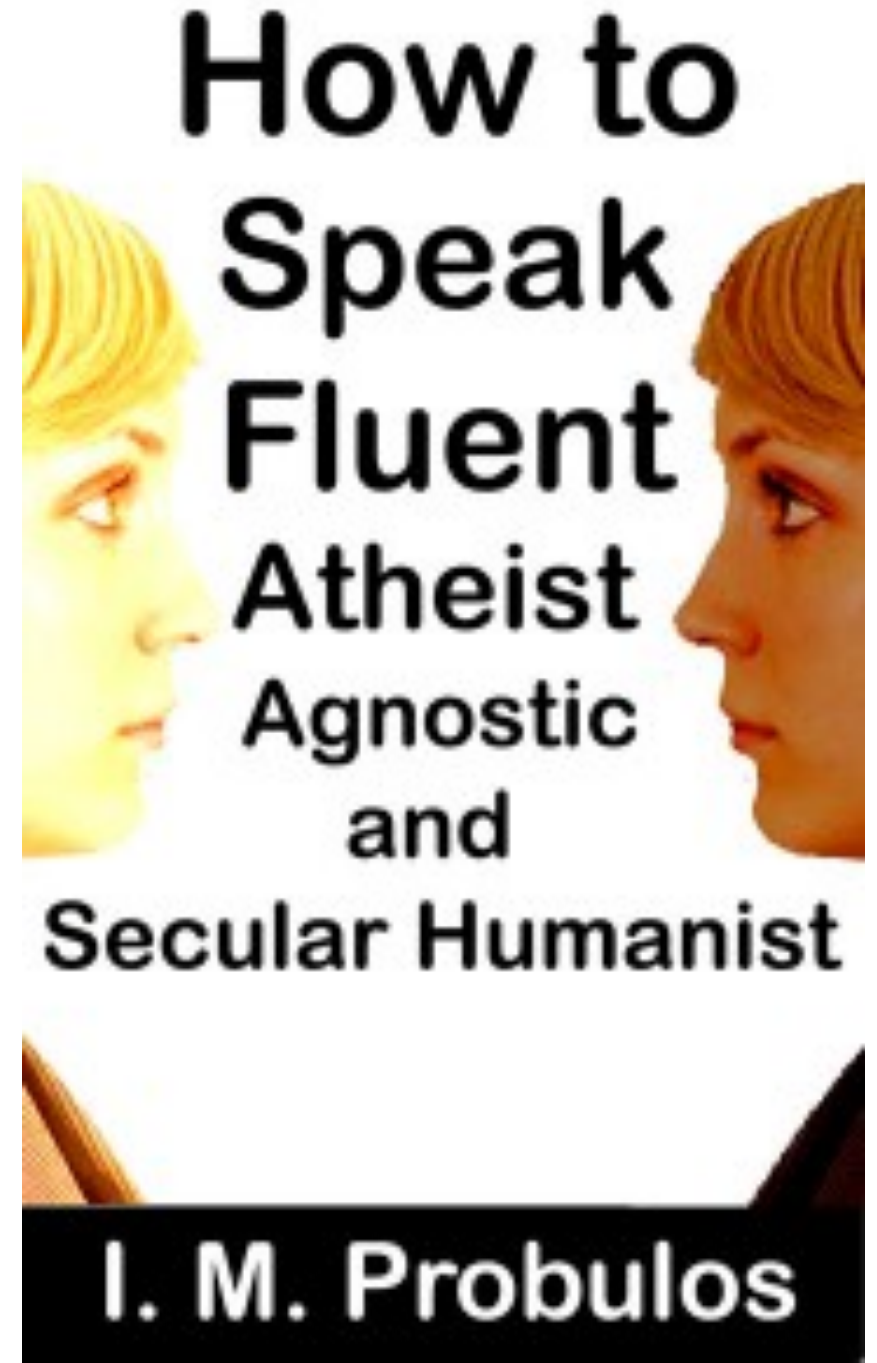
New religious expression is all about the
individual

MindBodySpirit
FESTIVAL



Non-Religious Worldviews

- the human search for personal fulfilment through non-religious practices:
 - Agnosticism
 - Atheism
 - Humanism





Sunday Assembly

A global movement for wonder and good.

The Sunday Assembly is a secular congregation that celebrates life. Our motto: live better, help often, wonder more. Our mission: A Sunday Assembly in every town, city and village that wants one. Our vision: To help everyone live life as fully as possible.

[The Sunday Assembly](#)

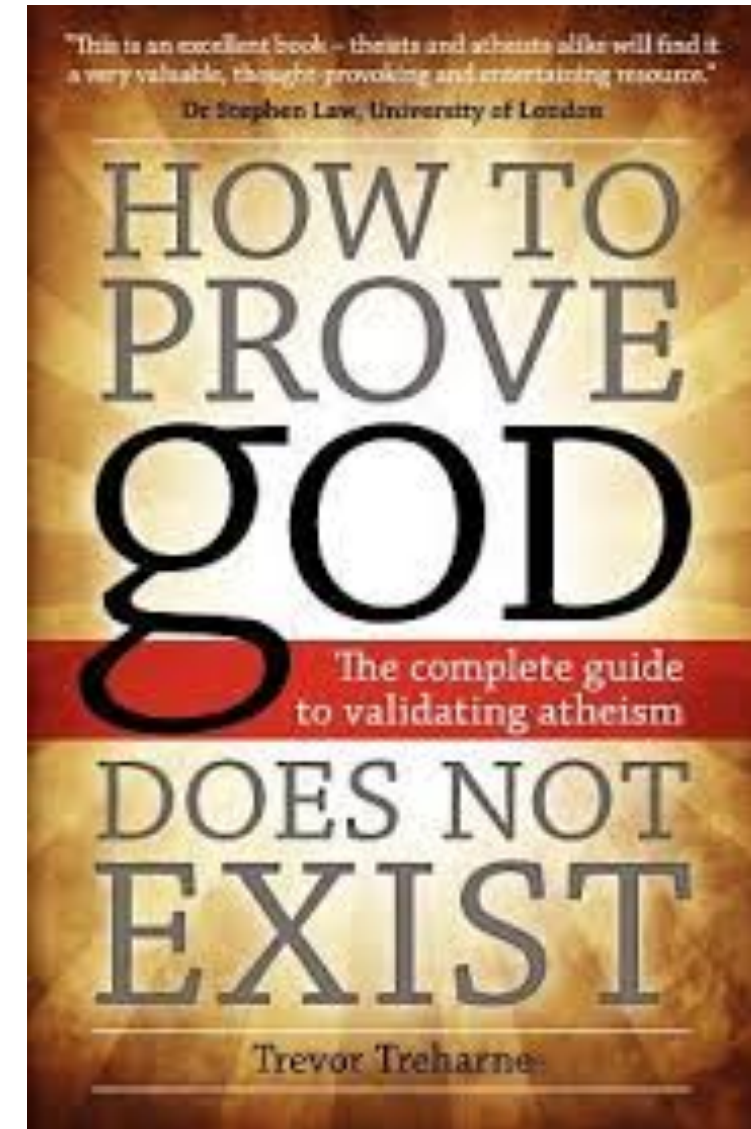
Outline the essential features of

Atheism

Disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods.

Nothing exists outside of humanity and this world.

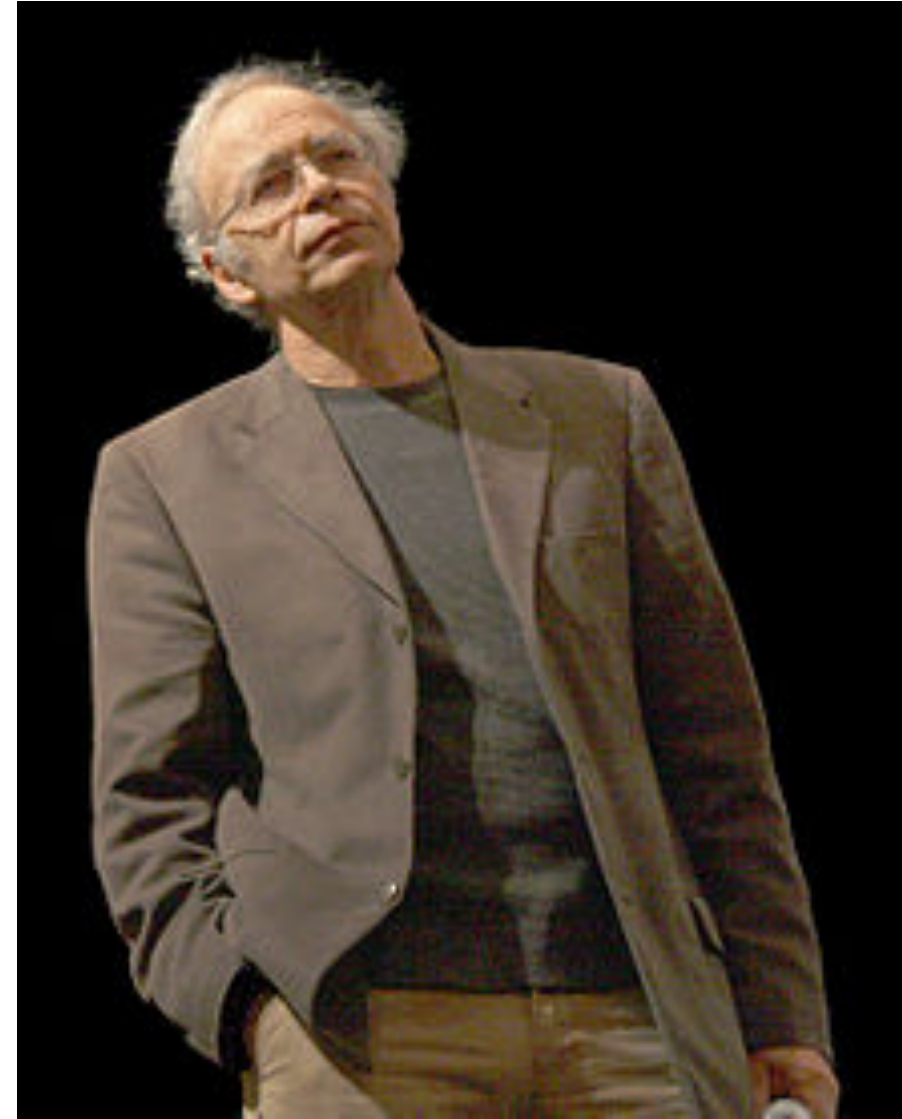
Modern atheism is largely the product of the seventeenth century European Enlightenment that advocated the use of reason over religion because the religion was associated with irrationality and primitive superstitions.





Richard Dawkins

Peter Singer



Agnosticism

A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God.

The term agnosticism was coined by nineteenth century scientist Thomas Huxley who put together "a", which means not, with the word "gnosis" which is the Greek word for knowledge. This negative prefix to the word for knowledge underlined the assertion that there is not sufficient knowledge to require a belief in the existence of a divine being.

Outline the positions of:

Rational Humanism

Human progress through logical thought being utilised to better the quality of human life for humankind.

i.e. Supports use of reason, compassion, equality, morality and ethics to build a better world.

Scientific Humanism

Draws upon science and technology to address the big problems of poverty, environmental degradation, social inequalities and other global issues faced by contemporary societies.

Sir Julian Huxley, the first Director-General of the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) coined the term.

Scientific humanism strives to achieve equality and peace on a global scale.

How do Agnosticism, Atheism and Humanism determine the aspirations and behaviour of individuals?

Ethical behaviour will be determined by the individual's own understanding of what is good and bad, It is not based on reward or punishment of a higher being but the individual's own reasons for acting in a particular manner.

Key events in a person's life may need to be celebrated in forms other than those offered by a religious tradition. For example birth, marriage and death.

In the absence of a belief in life after death, the person will view the present life as the opportunity to achieve their goals. This realization may well affect a person's attitude to many life issues such as health, contribution to society and personal relationships.

If the person argues that human life is itself essentially good, and worthy of persevering, then a person might devote themselves to activities which attempt to improve their life and the lives of others. This may take the form of working for social welfare and education. If this common humanity is recognised, the individual may also work towards the peace.

Compare the response of ONE religious and ONE non-religious belief system to:

- the concept of the transcendent
- the human person
- social responsibility

	Christianity - Monotheism	Atheism
The concept of the transcendent	<p>One God who is creator – all knowing(omniscient), all present (omnipresent) and all powerful (omnipotent); eternal.</p> <p>Belief in life after death.</p> <p>Soul that transcends physical matter.</p>	<p>No belief in God/god, afterlife, soul</p> <p>As a result no need for concept of the transcendent of divine beings beyond this world.</p>
The human person	<p>“Made in the image and likeness of God: male and female we created the.” Genesis 1:27</p> <p>Consists of a body, intellect, soul and emotion. Soul has a destiny after death.</p> <p>Individual reason requires guidance of divine revelation to achieve full understanding.</p> <p>Ethical living in accordance with divinely inspired teaching such as the Beatitudes.</p>	<p>Consists of a body, intellect and emotion.</p> <p>No spiritual destiny after death.</p> <p>Self-sufficient in terms of ability to reason.</p> <p>Ethical living determined by socially accepted codes and personal values.</p>
Social responsibility	<p>“Love your neighbour as you love yourself” (Mk 12:31) to fulfil the divine directive of establishing the Kingdom of God.</p> <p>Ethical responsibility towards others through charity, advocacy for the disadvantaged such as Church welfare agencies (eg SVdeP).</p>	<p>No universal code of responsibility but they may be philanthropic or committed to the common good (eg Fred Hollows) but it may also be for self gratification.</p>