Year 9 – Unit 1
Love, Sex and Relationships

Keywords

Love - a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection.

Sex – the act of sexual intercourse

Marriage – the legal union between two people, in the Catholic faith it is a sacrament in which a man and a woman are made one by God

Procreation – having children, reproducing

Contraception – the use of things that deliberately prevent pregnancy from occurring

Conception – the moment the sperm cell fertilizes the egg, Catholics believe this is the moment that life begins.

Adultery – having sexual relations with someone other than your husband and wife

Divorce – the legal ending of a marriage

Annulment - there was never a valid marriage in the first place

Homosexuality – being attracted to a person of the same gender, the Catholic Church teaches that it is not a sin to be a homosexual but homosexual sex is forbidden as it cannot result in children

Four types of love

Love is a complicated emotion and we feel different versions of it for different people and things in our lives. Below are four different types of love based on ideas from ancient Greece.

Agape – this is a spiritual and selfless love. Jesus demonstrated it throughout his life and his willingness to sacrifice himself. However, anyone can feel and demonstrate this type of love in they way they treat others, including strangers.

Eros – this is romantic love. The feelings of attraction we feel towards certain people is very different to the feelings we have for our friends. This is the type of love you feel for someone you want to marry and be intimate with. It is easy to confuse it with lust but true love is something deeper and lasts for a long time.

Philia – this is the love we feel for our friends and our community (for example, school mates). You feel closer to some people than others and are willing to support them just as you turn to them for support. These are the people you laugh and have fun with.

Storge – this is the love we have for our families. The Greeks described this as a natural love – think of the bond that forms between a mother and a newborn baby. Even when our families make us angry, we still feel a level of love and loyalty towards them.

Christian teachings about love, sex and relationships.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God and the second greatest was to love your neighbour. He said all the laws and prophets were hung on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:36-40)

Jesus showed agape love to all people and asked Christians to show this love not just to each other, but everyone.

St. Paul wrote about love and this passage is often used at weddings:

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

"Love is patient; love is kind
and envies no one.
Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor r
never selfish, not quick to take offense.
There is nothing love cannot face;
there is no limit to its faith,
its hope, and endurance.
In a word, there are three things
that last forever: faith, hope, and love;
but the greatest of them all is love."



Family and Love

Families have changed a great deal over the past century. Roman Catholics believe that if a couple decide to marry, they have a duty to have children and to raise those children as Catholics. Parents have a duty to baptise their children and teach them the sacraments. They must love and protect their children. In return, children have a duty to honour and obey their parents and to care for them in their old age.

Nuclear family – the traditional family of mother and father married to each other and children all living together
Re-constituted family – when a mother or father remarries or starts a new relationship creating step brothers and sisters and half brothers and sisters
Extended family– when other family members are living in the household such as grandparents, aunties, uncles
Single-parent family – when the children live with and are supported by one parent only
Same-sex family – the parents are a homosexual couple
Cohabitation – living together as a couple without being married

Some reasons why family life has changed include: divorce is easier and cheaper, contraception is easily available meaning couples can put off having children for longer, people are less religious these days so no longer follow the teachings so closely, more couples choose to live together rather than get married due to the cost of weddings and increased legal rights for cohabiting people, homosexual have a legal right to marry, adoption and medical treatments make it possible for single people to start a family on their own.

Contraception

Contraception is the deliberate prevention of pregnancy. There are two types of contraception: natural and artificial. **Artificial methods** of contraception are man-made and include the condom and the Pill. **Natural methods** are free and include the rhythm method.

The Catholic Church forbids all forms of artificial contraception because Catholics believe that the purpose of sex is procreation. The evidence for this belief is in the book of Genesis where God says "Go forth and multiply". Also, some forms of artificial contraception allow conception to take place but not for the pregnancy to take hold – this is equivalent to abortion in the eyes of a Catholic. They are allowed to use the rhythm method as this works with the natural fertility cycle of the woman and is still open to the possibility of conception taking place.

Other types of Christians believe that artificial contraception can be used because they interpret the Bible differently. They believe that couples should be allowed to choose when and how many children they have. If the woman's health is not good, she may use contraception from preventing a dangerous pregnancy. Also, they may have genetic diseases in the family that they are worried about passing on. Some Christians do not believe that life begins at the moment of conception so do not forbid any form of artificial contraception.

Sex outside of marriage

Pre-marital sex is sex before marriage. **Adultery** is when a person has sexual relations with someone other than their husband or wife.

The Bible is clear in its condemnation of adultery. It breaks one of the 10 Commandments and Jesus said that divorce would be permitted if a spouse was found to be cheating. All Christians agree that adultery is harmful, hurtful and breaks the vows of the marriage.

Pre-marital sex is not permitted by the Catholic Church. Sex is for marriage and for procreation. Many other Christians agree. However, some Christians believe that times have changed and attitudes towards sex should change with it. If a couple is committed to one another in a loving, faithful relationship and want to start a family before they are married they should be allowed to do so. They also believe that sex is not just for procreation but also to allow the couple to express their love for each other.

Marriage

Marriage is the legal union between two people, in the Catholic faith it is a sacrament in which a man and a woman are made one by God. For Catholics, marriage is:

Permanent – it is a lifelong commitment and cannot be broken
Exclusive – the couple promise to be faithful
Life-giving – it is a Catholic's duty to have children

The Catholic Church does not permit same-sex marriages as they believe that marriage is only between a man and a woman and sex is for procreation.



Divorce and Annulment

Divorce is the legal ending of a marriage. The Catholic Church does not permit divorce as marriage is a sacrament that involves a promise to God. If the relationship has broken down beyond repair then the couple can live apart but cannot have new relationships as this would be classed as adultery.

Some Christians do permit divorce as a last resort. They believe that it is kinder to allow the couple to have a fresh start and that sometimes it may be easier for the children if the parents are fighting too much. Jesus did allow divorce if adultery had been committed.

Annulment is when the marriage is dissolved as if it had never taken place – it is declared "null and void". The Catholic Church does permit this if strict criteria are met and the couple are free to marry somebody else. Annulments could be granted if itt can be proven that:

- the marriage was never consummated (the couple never had sex).
- one of them was not fully aware of the entire situation of their partner. For example, if one person had been deceitful about a previous marriage or huge debts.
- one of them was not fully aware of what marriage meant (too young, mentally unprepared)
- one of them was forced into the marriage.

The process can take up to two years.

Homosexuality

Evangelical and Fundamentalist Christians	Roman Catholics	Liberal Protestants
All homosexual thoughts and acts are wrong because: • There are Bible passages saying so • God created man and woman for marriage • Sex is for procreation • Homosexuality undermines the structure of the family	Being a homosexual is not a sin but having homosexual sex is – homosexual people should remain celibate – because: • The Bible condemns homosexual acts • Sex should only take place within marriage between a man and a woman • Sex is for procreation	Homosexual thoughts and actions are not wrong because: • Religion is a spiritual issue, not a sexual one • The Bible is reflective of the time in which it was written and shouldn't be taken literally • Jesus taught that love is what matters most

Year 9 RE – Unit 2: Hinduism

Keywords

Monotheism – belief in one God

Polytheism – belief in many gods

Brahman – life force or energy of the universe

Deity – a god or goddess

Murti – an image of God

Trimurti – the three main forms of God (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva)

Incarnation – when a god or spirit takes on bodily form, either in the form of an animal or a human (also known as an **avatar**)

Mandir – temple, Hindu place of worship

Puja – the Hindu word for worship

Prasad – food offerings made during worship

Tilka – red paste, often sandalwood, used to mark the forehead as a sign of devotion

Incense – fragrant sticks or cones burnt during worship

What do Hindus believe about God?

Hinduism is a monotheistic religion. When most people think about Hinduism, they think of the many colourful gods and goddesses associated with the religion. There seems to be a different god or goddess for all sorts of issues – money, love, education, death – but behind these many faces is one supreme spirit, Brahman. Brahman is the life force or energy behind the universe. It is everywhere around us and in all things. Brahman is absolute. You and I depend on many things to survive. Our lives have a beginning and an end. Brahman, on the other hand, needs nothing and is infinite. Brahman's energy is the source of all life and sustains all life in the universe.
Brahman is neither male nor female. It is beyond human description. It is so far beyond human understanding that over 300 images have been created to represent aspects of it. These deities (gods and goddesses) are all expressions of Brahman in relatable terms.

The Trimurti
The gods and goddesses of Hinduism make it easier for people to relate to Brahman. It is important to remember that Brahman is source of power behind all the deities.
The Trimurti are the "big three" gods – Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The Trimurti are exceptionally powerful and represent bigger themes of creation, preservation and destruction.

Brahma, The Creator – not to be confused with *Brahman*. He is the least worshipped god in Hinduism, partly because of lustful behaviour in Hindu mythology and partly because his job of creation of the universe is over.
Vishnu, The Preserver - for many, the most powerful and important god. He restores the balance between good and evil and has been incarnated (taken bodily form either as an animal or human on earth) nine times. Some Hindus believe that his final incarnation will take place close to the end of this world.
Shiva, the Destroyer - also known as the "Lord of the Dance". His dancing represents the rhythms of the universe – cycles of birth, death and rebirth. Shiva is seen as the source of both good and evil because his role is to destroy the universe in order to re-create it..





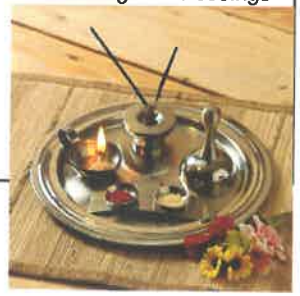
Diwali

Diwali (can also be spelled as *Divali*) is the most popular festival in Hinduism. Hindus enjoy five days of fireworks, sweets and feasting. The festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil and wisdom over ignorance. Although the legends attached to Diwali differ from region to region, there are some common themes. Lights called divas are lit to welcome the goddess Lakshmi into homes, places of business and public spaces because she is the goddess of wealth and prosperity. Doors and windows are left open and colourful rangoli patterns are designed on windows and doorsteps to attract a visit from Lakshmi. Many Hindus start their financial year at this time so that the new year can be blessed by the good fortune that Lakshmi brings.




Worship in the Home

Worship in the home is important because it can be done every day. Most Hindu homes have an area set aside for a shrine where the family can make offerings and focus their prayer. The shrine will have statues or pictures (murtis) of the family's favourite gods and goddesses.
A bell is rung to signal to the deities that the people are about to pray and make offerings. Incense is burned to clear the air and create a sacred space.
Tilka paste is placed as a mark on the murti and the foreheads of the worshippers as a sign of respect and devotion.
Offerings are made to the deities to make them feel welcome and earn their favour. Offerings can include food, drink and flowers. The worshippers then eat and drink the offerings to absorb the god's blessings into themselves.
An arti lamp is lit and waved in front of the murtis while asking for blessings.
The flames help focus the worship and attract the deities.



Keywords

Shikara/Gopuram – the spire or tower over the mandir

Garbagriha – the shrine room housing the murti

Mandapa – prayer hall

Reincarnation – when your soul is reborn into another body

Atman – a person's soul

Samsara – the cycle of birth, death and rebirth

Moksha – when your atman is reunited with Brahman and you are released from samsara, ultimate bliss and the aim of spiritual development

Maya – ignorance, delusion

Karma – the consequences of actions which can be good or bad

Swastika – an ancient symbol used in Hinduism to signify peace, purity and prosperity

Worship in the Mandir

Hindu temples or mandirs are built in a variety of styles but they do share some common features that reflect Hindu beliefs and enhance worship.



The entrance is often built to face the rising sun.
The tower or spire over the temple is called the **shikhara** or **gopuram**. They are ornate and sometimes very colourful and represent striving up towards heaven.
The murti is kept in a shrine room called a **garbagriha**.
There is space to circle around the murti during worship.
The prayer hall is called the **mandapa**.



Outside the mandir is a statue representing what kind of animal the god rides on. For example, Shiva rides a bull and Krishna rides an eagle.

Reincarnation

Atman is a person's soul. It is part of Brahman and Hindus hope to reunite their atman with Brahman.
Reincarnation means that the atman never dies and it goes on to form the life energy of a new baby. The aim of spiritual development is to reunite your atman with Brahman. This is called **moksha** and is the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth (**samsara**). It is described as timeless bliss.
Living as a human brings many problems. **Maya** means ignorance or delusion. Maya covers up atman so that it can't find Brahman. Examples of maya are anger, hate and cruelty and can lead to bad karma. **Karma** is the consequences of actions, good or bad, and will colour the next life you have. Good actions bring good karma and bring you closer to moksha. Bad actions bring bad karma and delay your spiritual development.
If you get good karma you will have a better life in your next reincarnation. If you have terribly bad karma you may go to hellish place for a while until your bad karma is worked out. Then you will be reincarnated into another life to have another chance.



Sacred Art

The Swastika



Most of us associate the swastika with Nazism, hatred and death. However, this symbol has belonged to the Hindu faith for centuries and stands for benevolence and good fortune. It is a sacred symbol used to attract the attention of the deities, invoke blessings and purify sacred spaces.
"Swasti" is the root of Sanskrit words with various meanings including peace, prosperity, health and congratulations.
Swastikas have cropped up in many ancient cultures across the world. Its origins remain a mystery but it is so important to Hindus that they hope to reclaim their symbol from its negative association with the Nazis.

Aum/Om



"Om" or "Aum" is the sound of the universe and the symbol for this sound is also the symbol of Hinduism. It is made at the beginning and end of Hindu prayers.
Aum is composed of the three sounds a-u-m (in the Sanskrit language and alphabet, the vowels a and u combine to become o which is why it is also spelled "Om") and the symbol's threefold nature is central to its meaning. It represents several important triads:
- The three worlds - earth, atmosphere, and heaven
- The three major Hindu gods - Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva

There is a belief that Brahman first created sound and the universe arose from it. As the most sacred sound, Aum is the root of the universe and everything that exists and it continues to hold everything together.

British Hindus

Hinduism is the third largest religion in Britain. Hindu populations are predominantly based in London and Leicester. The temple in Neasden is the largest Hindu temple in Europe. Hinduism existed in England as early as the 19th century but migration after the Second World War saw the first significant numbers of Hindus living in Britain. Further migration from Africa in the 1960s added to these numbers. Prejudice and discrimination were major challenges but over time Hindus have come to be more accepted and many modern British Hindus feel comfortable reconciling their faith with modern British life. There are unfortunately still challenges to be faced with prejudice.



Year 9 – Unit 3
Community Cohesion

Key Word	Meaning
community cohesion	a common vision and shared sense of belonging for all groups in society
discrimination	treating people less favourably because of their ethnicity/gender/colour/class
ethnic minority	a member of an ethnic group (race) which is much smaller than the majority group
interfaith marriage	marriage where the husband and wife are from different religions
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
racial harmony	different ethnic groups living together peacefully
racism	the belief that some races are superior to others
religious freedom	the right to practise your religion and change your religion
religious pluralism	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
transgender	when you identify or feel different from your assigned sex at birth

Changing attitudes to the role of men and women in the United Kingdom

How attitudes have changed:

During the second half of the 19th century it became the accepted view that married women should stay at home and look after the children. However, between 1882 and 1975 women have gained rights to: keep property separate from their husbands, vote and become councillors/MPs and be paid the same as men for the same work. In 1975, the Sex Discrimination Act aimed to reduce sexism in society by making it illegal to discriminate in employment on the grounds of gender or whether someone is married

Why attitudes have changed:

The suffragette movement showed that women were no longer prepared to be treated as second class citizens.

During the First and Second World Wars, women had to take on many of the jobs previously done by men and did these jobs just as well.

The UN Declaration of Human Rights and the development of the feminist movement meant equal rights had to be accepted.

Easier access to contraception meant that women were more in control of their reproductive rights

Different Christian attitudes to equal rights for women in religion

Catholic attitudes to the roles of men and women:

The Catholic Church teaches that men and women should have equal rights in society and in religion except that they cannot be a part of the ordained ministry. Catholics have this attitude because:

The creation story in Genesis 1 says that God created male and female at the same time in his image and therefore of equal status.

It is the teaching of the Catechism that men and women are equal, and should have equal rights in life and society.

Only men can be priests because the apostles were all men, and priests and bishops are successors of the apostles. Also, Jesus was man and the priest represents Jesus in the mass.

The modern attitude of Protestant Christianity:

Many Protestant Churches (e.g. Church of England, Methodist) give men and women equal rights, and have women ministers and priests, because:

The creation story in Genesis says that God created male and female at the same time in his image and therefore of equal status.

In some of his letters, Paul teaches that men and women are equal in Christ.

There is evidence from the Gospels that Jesus treated women as his equals.

Jesus chose men as his disciples because of the attitudes of Jewish culture at the time.

Transgender issues

There is a difference between your **sex** and your **gender**. Your **sex** is your biological status as either male or female and this determined by your reproductive organs, hormones and chromosomes. Your **gender**, on the other hand, is something determined by society. Gender roles are the behaviours and activities we associate with certain sexes and these can vary quite a lot between different cultures. Gender roles influence how we act and how we feel about ourselves.

Cis-gender is a term applied to people who feel that their gender identity is matched up with the sex they were born with. **Gender dysphoria** is when someone does not feel that their internal gender identity is in-line with their sex. Transgender people feel that their gender and sex do not match. There are different ways of expressing this and there is no one way to be transgender. Not everyone wants reassignment surgery, for example. Some people identify as neither male nor female so are **non-binary**. Others can identify with some elements of both genders to different degrees and **gender fluid** is another term for this. Even cis-gendered people do not always fit neatly into one category or another – humans are complicated creatures!
Gender non-conformity is when people rebel against or refuse to follow gender norms in their society. Not all gender non-conformists are transgender.

The Gender Recognition Act of 2004 protects the rights of people in the UK to be recognised according the gender that is right for them. They can get a new birth certificate indicating a different sex to support them in their new gender identity. In order to do this, they must first obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate. They must prove that they have been living as their new gender for at least two years to a Gender Recognition Panel.

'He will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment but the righteous to eternal life.' (Matthew25: 44-46)

'Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt.' (Exodus 22:21)

Jesus taught us to love our neighbour

The work of the Catholic Church to help asylum seekers and immigrant

'All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God' (Genesis 1:27)

'If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you.' (Leviticus 25:35-36)

'Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:1-2)

The UK as a multi-faith society

Many societies were mono-faith (having only one religion) until the 20th Century, but Britain has had believers in different faiths for many years and by the end of the 20th Century Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and other religions were settled in the UK, so that it is a truly multi-faith society.

The benefits of living in a multi-faith society:

People can learn about other religions and this can help them to see what religions have in common.

People may come to understand why different religions believe what they do and this may make people think more seriously about their own beliefs.

People are likely to become a lot more understanding about and respectful of each other's religions; this may help to stop religious conflicts.

A multi-faith society opens people's minds as they come across religious ideas they have never thought about before.

Issues raised for religion by a multi-faith society

A multi-faith society needs to have laws giving equal rights to all religions and to those who have no religion. However, a multi-faith society can raise problems for religious people in areas such as:

Conversion - conversion attempts by other religions can cause problems because it is like discrimination

Bringing up children –children might leave their parents faith and choose a different path

Inter-faith marriages – inter-faith marriages may cause problems because parents will have to decide which faith the children should be brought up in.

Government action to promote community cohesion in the UK

Passing laws against racism and discrimination (Race Relations Act; Racial and Religious Hatred Act), and making community cohesion part of the national curriculum. Community Cohesion is important because without it a multi-ethnic society will become violent and divided for example causing terror attacks and race wars.

Why Christians should help to promote racial harmony.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus showed that races who hated each other (like the Jews and Samaritans) should love each other as neighbours

Jesus treated people of different races equally.

St Peter had a vision from God, telling him not to discriminate because God had no favourites among the races.

St Paul taught that all races are equal as God created all races in His image.

The United Kingdom as a multi-ethnic society

The UK has always been a mixed society: Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons etc. are all ancestors of the British.

The UK has always believed in human freedom and offered asylum to those suffering persecution, for example to European Jews in the 1930's.

The problems and benefits of living in a multi-ethnic society:

Problems	Benefits
Racially prejudiced employers will not give jobs to certain ethnic groups religiously prejudiced employers will not give jobs to certain religious groups	More progress will be made in a multi-ethnic society because new people will bring in new ideas and new ways of doing things
Prejudiced landlords are likely to refuse accommodation to certain ethnic groups or religions	People of different ethnic groups and nationalities will get to know and like each other
If teachers are prejudiced against certain ethnic minorities or religious groups, they will discriminate against them in their teaching	A multi-ethnic society helps people to live and work in a world of multi-national companies and economic interdependence between all nations
Prejudiced police officers will discriminate against certain ethnic or religious groups	Life is more interesting with a much greater variety of food, music, fashion and entertainment

Year 9 RE – Unit 4: Philosophy

Keywords

Philosophy – "love of wisdom", the study of questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language

Analogy – a comparison between one thing and another in order to make a concept easier to understand

Paradox – a contradictory or absurd statement

Thought experiment – a story or scenario invented to test an assumption or to test consequences that cannot be physically tested

Sceptic – someone who doubts accepted opinions

Ethics – the study of right and wrong, morality

Epistemology – the study of the theory of knowledge

Metaphysics – the study of "big questions", the study of what exists and the nature of existence

Rationalism – the idea that true knowledge comes from the mind and reason

Empiricism – the idea that true knowledge comes from observation





What is Philosophy?

Ask ten philosophers and you will get ten different answers! Philosophy is a very difficult thing to define.
"Philosophy" is a Greek word comprised of two parts: "philos" (love of) and "sophia" (wisdom). Philosophers like to ask questions. They like to examine things we often take for granted. A good philosopher is not afraid to change his or her mind if they are presented with a good argument that is contrary to their traditional way of thinking.

Asking philosophical questions

One of the things about philosophy that makes it so difficult to define is that it covers so many different areas. There are many branches of philosophy that specialise in certain questions.
Ethics – What does it mean to be "good"? How can I lead a good life?
Epistemology – How do I know what I know? Where does knowledge come from?
Metaphysics – Why are we here? Why is there something rather than nothing?
Political philosophy – What makes a good society? What responsibilities do I have towards my neighbour?
Religious philosophy – What proof do we have that God exists?

Philosophical questions aim to probe deeper into issues and concepts. They aim to uncover what we really mean and what we really understand. A good philosophical question will not have an easy answer – if you think you have the answer then you haven't understood the question! Reaching answers in philosophy is less important than asking good questions and really thinking through arguments on all sides.

Thought experiments

One way philosophers explore questions is through thought experiments. These are stories invented to test the consequences of a line of thinking in a harmless way. Sometimes things are impossible to test in a physical way. Thought experiments allow us to test assumptions, solve problems and make decisions. Your independent learning project will help you examine some famous thought experiments and give you an opportunity to construct some of your own.

The Origins of Western Philosophy

Western philosophy began in ancient Greece around the 6th Century BC. Thales of Miletus is considered by many to be the first proper philosopher in a group known as the pre-Socratics (philosophy before Socrates came along). They were concerned with metaphysical problems such as the nature of existence. They wanted to find out what the basic substance of our world is and they were fascinated by what makes things change or appear to change. There was very little scientific knowledge in those days so their forays into investigating (apparently) simple things such as the formation of ice began philosophical thought.

The three most famous Greek philosophers were Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. All three have had a huge influence on Western civilisation.

Plato and the Cave



Plato is one of the most influential philosophers in all of Western philosophy. He thought that there was a greater reality beyond the world we experience.

He told a story about a group of prisoners chained up in an underground cave. They have been there since birth and are chained by both neck and ankles. They can only see shadows projected on the wall by a fire. They believe that the shadows are all that exists. One day a prisoner escapes and finds his way outside. At first he is blinded by the sun but then his sight adjusts and he realises that the outside world is in fact the real world while the shadows on the cave wall are just illusions. The prisoner returns to tell the others but they refuse to listen and threaten to kill him.

The prisoners represent the ordinary people of our world. The chains are the way our senses deceive us and the distractions we like to use to keep our minds occupied on shallow things. True reality is initially scary and painful to face like the blinding sun but if we persevere in our quest for truth, we will find it. The outside world represents true reality and the escapee is the philosopher who has the courage to go searching for the truth. The hostile reaction of the remaining prisoners shows how people don't like to be forced from what they find comfortable.



Thinking is difficult! Let's watch *Love Island* instead.

How do I know what I know?

An evil scientist has removed your brain and placed it in a vat of liquid nutrients to keep it alive and active. He has connected your brain to a super computer via a network of wires. Through this computer he is able to simulate all sorts of experiences and events as if you were experiencing them in real life.
How do you know you are not a brain in a vat right now?




Brain in a vat?

Descartes' method of doubt - Rationalism



Rene Descartes (1596-1650) was a scientist, mathematician and philosopher.
In order to establish what we can truly know, he adopted his "method of doubt".
He uses the metaphor of the rotten apple. Instead of picking out just the odd rotten apple, he empties the entire barrel, discarding any belief that could be open to any doubt, no matter how slight.

Step 1 : reliability of the senses
You can't always rely on the data provided by your senses.

Step 2 : dream hypothesis
Descartes points out that sometimes people get confused between dreams and reality. So again, we can't trust our senses as we might be dreaming the whole thing.

Step 3 : the malicious demon
Descartes imagines an evil demon who deceives him at every turn so that even the rules of maths and science can no longer be certain.
So now all we have is ourselves, our existence.
"I doubt, therefore I think. I think, therefore I am".
From this starting point he builds up a system of things we can know. He thought the best knowledge comes from the mind and reason.

Hume's scepticism – Empiricism



How do you know that the sun will rise tomorrow? You may have noticed that it has risen every day *so far* but does that mean that it will definitely rise every day *from now on*? This is something we take for granted (and rightly so if you have learned about the movement of the Earth around the Sun) but we have no way of observing every single sun rise to rule out the possibility of some strange anomaly that will change the course of the planet. David Hume (1711-1776) was a sceptic. This means he exercised extreme doubt when it came to questions about what we can truly call "knowledge". He differed from Descartes in a crucial way – Hume thought the best way to gain knowledge was through observation. Like Descartes, he acknowledged that reason was necessary, but while Descartes dismissed sense data as unreliable, Hume dismissed anything that couldn't be observed.

The Self – Who am I?

What makes you the same person over time? What is it that links the person you are today with the person you were ten years ago? We all have a sense of "self" but what exactly is it? Your body continuously replaces cells and roughly seven years from now every cell you currently have will have been replaced. If your body is new, are you a new person?

John Locke – Memories



Locke (1632-1704) had the idea that it is the memory that makes a person the same person over time. If you lose your memories, you lose yourself. Locke did not think that bodily continuity had anything to do with personal identity. Psychological continuity is what counts so if your memory was swapped into another body, your "self" would go with it. Locke even went so far as to say that if a criminal genuinely lost his or her memory of committing a crime, they were no longer morally responsible for it because it was as if a different person had committed the crime.

David Hume – Bundles

Hume (1711-1776) argued that all we have to go on are *impressions* and *ideas*. An impression is what you get when you observe something. An idea is what is in your head when you imagine or think about something. When you look at a cat you have an impression of the cat. When you close you eyes, you then have an idea of the cat or even cats in general. Being the sceptical empiricist he was, Hume looked within himself and could not find a "self" to be observed. So he questioned why people have an *idea* of having a self when there is no observable *impression* to base this upon. Hume agreed with Locke that memory was important but he did not agree that this gives us any sort of personal continuity. Rather, as memories come and go, our sense of self comes and goes, giving us a series of "bundles" rather than one continuous person.

Derek Parfit – Illusions



Parfit (1942-2017) thought that we need to consider that both physical and psychological factors contribute to a sense of personal identity over time. However, he argued that the idea that you are the same person you were in the past is an illusion. What you really have are a series of selves that are connected to each other in varying degrees. For example, you are *very* closely connected to the person you were yesterday – you have changed very little physically and psychologically. You are much more distantly connected to the person you were ten years ago – both physically and psychologically you have changed a great deal. You may be more closely connected to your best friend than you are to the five year old version of you. (Genetics count for little here because we consider twins as separate people.) You will encounter many different versions of yourself as you grow up just as you encounter different versions of your family members and friends as they grow up. The connections you have between versions of yourself is similar to the connections you have between yourself and others. Parfit calls this the "liberation of the self" because when you realise your idea of yourself is an illusion, you are free to explore the connections you feel with others.

Year 9 Unit 5 - GCSE Judaism Beliefs

Covenant	A promise or agreement between God and the Jews
Shabbat	Day of rest for Jews from Friday to Saturday sunset
Shekhinah	Place where God's presence rests and can be felt
Kosher	Foods and practices allowed
Messiah	Anointed one who will bring about a new age for mankind
Synagogue	Place of worship and learning for Jews
Mitzvot	Duties or commandments
Torah	The five books of the Tenakh

God as One	Jews believe in one God **(monotheism)**. The **shema** prayer states 'Hear O Israel the Lord Our God, the Lord is one'. God is believed to be all knowing **(omniscient)**, all powerful **(omnipotent)** and always existing **(omnipresent)**. **Synagogues** show this belief by not having statues of any living beings. Some Jews believe the name of God is so special that anything with God's name must be buried if no longer used.
God as Creator	Many Jews believe God alone **created** all life as stated in **Genesis**, the first book of the **Torah**. Some Jews believe God literally created the world in six days. Others believe the story should not be taken literally as what is important is the story shows God is creator of all. The weekly festival of **Shabbat** celebrates creation. As God gave life then the preservation of life **Pikuach Nefesh** is very important.
God as Law Giver	God revealed to **Moses** the duties that Jews should keep, including the **Ten Commandments**. Through the following of these laws Jews are fulfilling what God wants and forming a relationship with him.
God as Judge	God is a God of **justice** and **mercy** and is a judge of how the duties of the Torah are followed. At the festival of **Rosh Hashanah** God judges every person. God's ways may not be understandable, but they are considered to be just.
Shekhinhah	Used in the **Torah** to describe God's dwelling on the earth. Some Jews believe the shekhinah never left the **Temple** and that is why **Israel** has a special spirituality. It is believed that through the shekhinhah God's presence can be felt and creates a sense of peace and calm e.g. when **Shabbat** candles are lit.

Why there are Different Beliefs about the Messiah?
There are no direct quotes about the Messiah in the **Torah** so there are many different beliefs as passages that might be relevant are interpreted with people giving different meanings. For some, especially **Orthodox** Jews, a belief in the Messiah is central to their faith. For some, especially **Reform** Jews, there is a belief that the **Messianic Age** can come from the good deeds **(mitzvot)** that people do to create peace.

What is the Messiah?
Messiah comes from **'Mashiach'** meaning **'anointed'**, This refers to the placing of oil on the head of a king showing they are trusted by **God**. Many **Orthodox** Jews **pray** each day for the coming of the Messiah to bring about the Messianic **Age**.

What is the Messianic Age?
Many Jews believe that the coming of the Messiah will bring about the **resurrection** of the dead and begin the **Messianic Age** – a future time of peace on earth.

When Might the Messiah Come?
Some Jews believe there is an exact date when the Messiah will come but most Jews believe the Messiah will come when they are needed most in the world.

What Might the Messiah Do?
There are many different beliefs. The traditional belief was that the Messiah would be a great leader and judge who will bring the world to an end. Some believe he will be descended from **King David** and an inspiration to others. In the **Tenakh** there are references to the Messiah bringing Jews back to **Israel**; rebuilding the **Temple** in **Israel**; brining about a time of peace for all.

Covenant

In the **Torah**, **God** made relationships through a **covenant** or agreement with individuals or groups. Each marks a special time in God's relationship with the Jewish people.

The Abrahamic Covenant

There are three main parts of the **covenant** between God and **Abraham**. Firstly, God called **Abraham** and his family to the new land of **Canaan** (often referred to as the **Promised Land**). Secondly, God promised **Abraham** he would make a great nation from him. Thirdly, God promised to **bless Abraham** and his family. As part of the **covenant** God gave **Abraham** the rite of **circumcision (Brit Milah)**.

The Covenant with Moses

Moses is considered to be the greatest **prophet**. He is believed to have been the only person to have seen God face to face. Moses was chosen by **God** to lead **Israelites** out of slavery in **Egypt**. This journey is remembered and celebrated at the festivals of **Succoth** and **Pesach (Passover)**. God promised to be with him in his role. **Moses** was given the **Torah** by God on **Mount Sinai**. **Orthodox** Jews believe he was also given the **Torah** and also the **oral Torah** (commentary of the Torah). **Moses** formed a **covenant** with **God** that as **God's chosen people** the **Israelites** would keep **the commandments**.

The importance of the Ten Commandments

Many Jews believe these were **revealed** by God to **Moses** and they should be kept by every Jew and are central to Jewish beliefs and practices. The first four shows the relationship with God and humans and the final six show how people should relate to each other. The **Ten Commandments** forbid **idolatry**, blasphemy, adultery, stealing, murder, lying and envy and tell Jews to remember the importance of God, to remember and keep the **Sabbath** day and to honour parents. Each year there is a **Mitzvah Day** on which Jews aim to make a positive impact on their local community.

What is Pikuach Nefesh?

The saving of a life, although it is often used to refer to the **sanctity of life**.

Why is Pikuach Nefesh Important?

As **God** created life in his own image, life is therefore sacred. Saving a life is more important than all of the other **mitzvot** (apart from **idolatry**, incest and adultery). The **Talmud** teaches people should 'live' not 'die' by the **Torah**. Jews consider teachings about **Pikuach Nefesh** when making life and death decisions such as abortion; organ donation; transplants; euthanasia etc. They have to be certain that their actions will actually save a life.

What is free will?

Everyone is born with an inclination to do good and an inclination to do bad. Humans are not puppets .The **Torah** teaches **God** has given Jews the freedom to choose right from wrong.

What are the 613 mitzvot ?

There are **613 mitzvot (duties)** in the **Torah** although some can no longer be kept as they refer to practices in the **Temple** which is now destoyed. **Orthodox** Jews believe they should keep all the other **mitzvot**. **Reform** Jews believe some are not relevant to today and choose to follow those they consider most important for modern day life. The number of **mitzvot** are represented by the number of knots on the **tallit** worn by many Jews during **worship**. Through keeping the **mitzvot** many Jews believe they are keeping their relationship with **God**.

What is the relationship between free will and the 613 mitzvot (duties)?

Although the **mitzvot** are in the Torah God gave humans free will to follow them or not. It is believed that Jews are born with the inclination to do good or bad. Studying the **Torah** helps humans choose to do good. Once a year **Mitzvah Day** is celebrated when Jews do good deeds and actions for the local and wider community.

Beliefs about life after death

The afterlife is often called **olam ha ba** (the world to come). There are no direct references to the nature of an afterlife in the **Torah**, but there are different beliefs and interpretations. Some Jews believe there is a life after death and other Jews believe that what lives on is how you remember the person for the good deeds they have done in their life. For most Jews their concern is not what happens after death but what good they do while alive.

Beliefs about judgement

God is believed to judge according to how humans have followed the right or wrong inclination and kept the **mitzvot**. **Rosh Hashanah** is sometimes called **Day of Judgement** as Jews think about their deeds over the last year. **God** is a God of **justice** and **mercy** and is a judge of how the duties of the **Torah** are followed. At the festival of **Rosh Hashanah God** judges every person. God's ways may not be understandable but they are considered to be just.

Beliefs about resurrection and immortality

There are many different beliefs about resurrection. **Orthodox** Jews refer to **resurrection** daily in their **prayers** and at **funerals**. For some this is a bodily and **soul resurrection** and for others just a **soul resurrection**. The references to resurrection have been taken out of the **prayer books (siddur)** for **Reform** Judaism and a belief in **resurrection** either bodily or through the **soul** has been rejected.

Beliefs about this life as a preparation for the next life

Most Jews consider it more important to focus on living a good life on earth and not to try and understand the ways of **God**. Preparation comes from studying the **Torah** and carrying out the **mitzvot**. In the **Talmud** this life was described as a 'lobby' or entrance hall where you should prepare yourself for the world to come.

Year 9 Unit 6 - GCSE Judaism Practices

The Tenakh and Torah in Daily Life

Tenakh is made up of the **Torah**, **Prophets (Neviim)** and **holy writings (Ketuvim)**. Although the **Torah** is the most important part, the other parts are used for study to show the history of the Jews and their relationship with **God**. The teachings from the **Torah** guide everyday practices, values and relationships.

Dietary laws: kosher/treifah; parev; kosher kitchen

Kosher means something fitting and in keeping according to Jewish law and the **mitzvot**. **Treifah** describes food and practices that are not allowed e.g. pork and shellfish or not prepared in a way that complies with **kosher** regulations. Animals allowed and forbidden to eat are listed in the **Torah (Leviticus 11)** but no reasons are given. Later **rabbinic** discussions created the method of slaughter permitted (**shechithah**). It is believed this method of slaughter causes the least possible pain to animals. Interpretations of the **Torah** ('Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk') has resulted in many Jews not mixing meat and milk in their meals. In the home this means that there will often be plates for food containing meat and plates for those containing milk. Many **Orthodox** Jews will wait six hours between eating something milk and meat. Some foods, e.g. vegetables and eggs, are considered neutral **(parev)** can be eaten with meat or milk dishes.

Benefits and challenges of keeping a kosher kitchen

Cost - **Kosher** meat must be **glatt** (without blemish) and killed according to **shechithah** regulations which is more expensive.
Knowing what foods are kosher - however an app has now been created to help Jews know and the **Beth Din** certifies **kosher** shops and cafes.
Legalities - In some countries the method of **shechitah** is illegal so it is difficult to get **kosher** meat.
Relationship with **God** - many Jews consider they are strengthening their relationship with **God** by keeping the **kosher** regulations in the **Torah**.
Identity - community of Jews is strengthened.
Kindness to animals - Many Jews argue that **shechithah** is a kinder method of slaughter.

The home

In the home values and beliefs are learnt and practiced. Prayers are said daily including for **Orthodox** Jews the **Modeh Ani** (prayer to thank **God** upon waking). The **Shema** (main declaration of faith) is recited at **prayer** times and throughout the day. Most **Jewish** homes have a **siddur** (prayer book) which is used for **prayers** and is considered **holy**. As decreed in the **Torah mezuzah** cases which contain the **mezuzah** scroll are fixed to the front door post. Many Jews also have them on the door post of each room apart from the bathroom. These contain a copy of the **Shema** prayer. For a **mezuzah** to be considered **kosher** it has to be hand written by a **scribe**, on **kosher** parchment and checked twice every seven years.

Preparation and celebration of Shabbat

The weekly festival of **Shabbat** celebrates creation. Requirement in the **Ten Commandments** to remember and keep **Shabbat**. For many the preciousness of **Shabbat** is considered as a taste of the world to come. Jews prepare and celebrate **Shabbat** in different ways. Differences are often a result of interpretation of the **Torah**, advice from **rabbis** and **personal conscience**. Before **Shabbat** the house is cleaned, on the table there will be two **challah** (plaited loaves). The mother lights two candles to bring **Shabbat** in, the father blesses the children and then sings a song welcoming **Shabbat** angels. Father then makes **kiddush** (blessing) over the wine and the family wash their hands. **Blessings** are recited over the **challah** as a piece is cut for each member of the family. The bread is dipped into the salt and family say a blessing and the family sing **grace (birakhot hamazon)** after the meal. Many **Orthodox** Jews keep Shabbat by doing no work from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. What counts as work comes from interpretations of the **Torah** and **Talmud**. Some **Reform** Jews consider that modern day living means that some people have to work or travel on **Shabbat**. The **Havdalah** ceremony is held at the end of **Shabbat** to separate **Shabbat** from the rest of the week. The **Havdalah** cup of wine is filled to overflowing as an expression of hope and blessings are said. A braided candle with a double wick is used for the **Havdalah** ceremony and a **spice box** is taken into each room of the house with the hope the week to come will be as sweet as the smell from the **spice box**.

Marriage

Marriage fulfils the command in **Genesis** to be fruitful and multiply. It is seen as **sacred**. The wedding takes place under a **chuppah** which is usually a large piece of material (can be a **tallit**) supported by four poles. Different reasons are given for the **chuppah** including - representing the tent of **Abraham** famous for his hospitality; representing the home the newlyweds; reminder of **God's protection**. The marriage is in two stages. The **rabbi** recites two blessings over a cup of wine from which the couple drink. Following this the groom makes a statement and places the ring on the bride's finger in the presence of valid witnesses. It is customary for the **ketubah** (wedding contract) to be read out. The second stage includes the **seven vows** of marriage. The bride and groom drink wine from the second cup. At the end of the ceremony a glass is smashed under the foot of the groom. Some say this is to represent the sorrow over the destruction of the **Temple**; others that it is a warning that life is not all happiness.

Mourning:

Onan, the role of the chevra kaddisha, shiva, kaddish and yahrzeit Mourning rituals show all are equal in death. It is important to care for the bereaved and treat the body with respect as it's the earthly container for the **soul**. The **onan** is the main mourner. The **chevra kaddisha (synagogue's burial society)** stay with and prepare the body. Usually burials take place although many **Reform Jews** are now choosing cremations. The funeral is very simple with **psalms** and the **kaddish** said. Mourners sit **shiva** for seven days by staying at home and being visited by relatives and friends. There are then different periods of mourning when, for example, no music is allowed. Male mourners are obliged to say the **kaddish** regularly as part of a **minyan**. There is no obligation for women to say the **kaddish**. **Kaddish** is generally recited for 11 months after the death of a parent and a month for other close relatives. A **yahrzeit** ceremony when prayers are said and a candle burns for 24 hours is held each year to mark the anniversary of the death.

Synagogue services

Synagogue services are important for both **Reform** and **Orthodox** Jews as they draw the community together and seen as less selfish than **personal prayers**. Most **synagogues** have daily **prayers** and celebration of festivals but the main community time is the **Shabbat** service. **Reform** services allow music and **rabbis** can be male or female. **Orthodox** services do not allow music as after the destruction of the second **Temple** in AD70 no music was allowed as an act of mourning. It is rare that Jews kneel for **worship** apart from on **Yom Kippur**.

Shabbat Service

The main service will last about two hours and includes important **prayers** such as the **Shema** and **Amidah**. In **Reform synagogues** the service is mainly in the language of the country. **Orthodox** services mainly use **Hebrew** considered as a holy language. Portions of the **Torah** and **haftorah** are read which the **rabbi** (always male in Orthodox synagogues) usually refers to in their **sermon**. After the service there will be a **Kiddush** which includes a special **blessing** recited over a cup of wine. **Reform** services omit **prayers** which make references to a **personal Messiah** or **resurrection**.

Importance of prayer in the synagogue

Through **prayer** a relationship is built with **God**. The weekday and Shabbat prayer book (**siddur**) contains many different types of prayer such as praising God, requests of God and thanksgiving. The prayer books for Jewish festivals is called the **machzor**. Important prayers are recited by standing e.g. the Amidah. In some synagogues the **Shema** prayer is said standing as it is considered important. Some worshippers cover their eyes when reciting the Shema so they can concentrate.

The Amidah Prayer

This is an important prayer which speaks directly to **God** and is said facing **Jerusalem**. Many **Orthodox** Jews will recite the Amidah at each of the three daily prayer services in addition to the **Shabbat** service. Prior to the Amidah, the entire congregation rises and takes three steps back, then three steps forward. Worshippers step back and forward as if entering the presence of the King with reverence. The 19 blessings are divided into three sections: praising God, requests of God, thanks to God.

Why there are different practices

There are often different ways that Jews celebrate the same festival. This might depend upon how **observant** Jews are of following the Torah literally. Also, if Jews are **Sephardic** (family roots in countries such as Spain and Africa) or **Ashkenazi** (family roots in countries such as Eastern Europe) then foods at festivals will often reflect a country of origin. As with any festival there will be different traditions that each family has as a way of celebrating.

Festival: Pesach (Passover)

The night before **Pesach** is an important time as it's the final search for **chametz (leaven)** which the **Torah** states should not be eaten during **Pesach**. **Pesach** celebrates **Moses** leading the **Israelites** from **Egypt** to freedom and lasts for seven days in **Israel** and 8 elsewhere. The **seder** is a special service at home held on the first night of **Pesach**. The **Haggadah** is read. This is a small volume which recounts the story of the **Exodus** and contains many **prayers** and **blessings**. At the **seder meal** there is a dish of **symbolic** food including - **marror** (symbolising bitterness of the **Israelites** in captivity); shankbone (represents the lamb eaten by the **Israelites** on the night of the **Exodus**); **charoset** (a paste representing the mortar for bricks made by the Jews in slavery in **Egypt**).There are 4 cups of wine and wine is spilled when the **Ten Plagues** are recited. Some say as an expression of sorrow for each of the **plagues**. By the plate there is often a dish of salt water representing the tears shed as **Israelites** in slavery. There is a special goblet called the **Cup of Elijah**. After the **Grace** after meals has been recited the cup of **Elijah** is filled with wine and the front door is opened for **Elijah** to enter. Tradition states that **Elijah** will announce the time when the **Messiah** comes. The focus of the festival is to remember when **Israelites** weren't free and the importance of freedom.

Festivals: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Known as the days of **awe**, they celebrate **God's** role as **Master of the Universe**. According to the **Talmud** all actions of the past year are judged by **God**. In the **Rosh Hashanah** service, the concept of **'return to God'** is stressed and that the **'gates of repentance'** stay open until **Yom Kippur**. The **Midrash** describes **Rosh Hashanah** as the birth of humankind on the **sixth day of creation**. Often on **Rosh Hashanah** Jews visit water to perform **Tashlich** (cast off) to symbolise **self-purification**. Round loaves are eaten to symbolise the hope that the coming year will be complete and unbroken. Apples and honey are eaten with the idea of a sweet new year. The ten days between **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur** are the last chance to **repent**. **Yom Kippur** is the most solemn day when most Jews **fast** and spend most of the day in the **synagogue**. It begins with the **Kol Nidre** prayer and ends 24 hours later with the **Neila** service. A **kittel** is worn by some worshippers as symbol of humility and purity of thought. The **Kol Nidre (all vows)** is chanted and the story of **Jonah** is read. The **shofar** (ram's horn) is blown at the end of the **Yom Kippur** service.

Festivals: Sukkot

It is a **Pilgrim** Festival and comes after **Yom Kippur** as a joyful time. **Sukkot (festival of booths)** lasts seven days and teaches Jews to have security in what seems transient. **Sukkot** is often described as a festival of simple things when Jews come closer to nature and liberate themselves from technology. With a **Sukkot** there is no difference between rich and poor as it shows that all are strangers on earth, temporary residents on **God's universe**. It commemorates **Moses** leading the **Israelites** through the desert from **Egypt** to the **Promised Land**. The main symbol is the **sukkah**. This is a booth with a roof through which the stars must be seen. Observant families sleep in it. During the festival the **four species** are waved indicating that **God's power** is everywhere. These are the palm branch; myrtle branches; willow branches and a citron. Some say they symbolise the different types of Jews.