

# Knowledge Organiser– Y8

## Hinduism

### Key Terms

- Monotheism**—Belief in one God
- Polytheism**—Belief in many Gods
- Atheist**— Someone who doesn't believe in God
- Theist**—Anyone who does believe in God
- Agnostic**— Someone who is unsure of Go’s existence
- Brahman**—Supreme god in Hinduism
- Trimurti**— 3 main aspects of Brahman (Brahma / Vishnu / Shiva)
- Reincarnation**—Literally means “again in flesh”
- Wheel of Samsara**—Cycle of life and death
- Karma**— Relates to action and Consequences
- Atman**—Term for Soul in Hinduism
- Dharma**—Duties in life
- Moksha**—Freedom from the wheel of Samsara
- Ladder of Varna**—Another name for the Caste System
- Ganges**—Sacred (special) river in India

### Hindu Belief in God

Many Hindus believe that there is one God (monotheistic view monotheism = belief in one God) who is worshipped in different forms, an idea which stems from the very earliest Hindu scriptures. This one 'supreme' being is called **Brahman**.

We can try to understand God if we think about light passing through a prism and coming out the other side. Light entering the prism (Brahman) splits into the colours of the rainbow when it leaves the prism (the many gods and goddesses). Of course, there are only seven colours in the rainbow, but there are said to be more than 200 million gods in Hinduism. Each of these gods is still part of the one god, Brahman. Hindus use the sacred symbol Om to stand for Brahman.

### The Trimurti

The life force of Brahman is represented by the Trimurti (three-form), which is made up of three main deities. These are Brahma (the creator of the universe), Vishnu (the preserver of the universe) and Shiva (the destroyer – although some Hindus believe he also has a role in re-creation).

The murti of Brahma is usually pictured with four faces, each one pointing towards one of the four points of the compass. This symbolises that God created the whole universe. Brahma is only worshipped in Pushkar, India.

Vishnu is usually shown either lying on a snake or with a snake behind his head. This symbolises comic time and energy. He colour blue represents his endless spiritual power. He has four hands which often hold a conch shell (symbolising the music of the universe, calling people to live a pure life). He also has a lotus flower (symbolising purity and spiritual enlightenment).

Shiva may seem to many people to be dangerous and frightening because he is the destroyer God. However, destruction is necessary to allow new things to happen. Shiva is not to be feared because he destroys but should be worshipped for allowing new things to happen. Shiva is seen in different forms.

### Avatars within Hinduism

Hindus believe that sometimes a god will appear on the earth in living form. Such an appearance is called an avatar. Perhaps the best English translation of avatar is 'incarnation', however avatar also conveys the belief that God has the ability to take any form and will descend to earth at times when there has been a decline in goodness, and evil is influencing human actions

### Hindu Belief in Life and Death

#### Karma

- Karma means action
- Refers to the law of cause and effect i.e. actions and their consequences...
- The law: Every single action has an effect on something else
- Karma decides where you come back and what you come back as
- If your actions are good you will get a good rebirth into pleasant circumstances; if they are bad you will get a bad one...
- It is your actions determining whether you will be rewarded or punished.
- In a lifetime people build up karma, both good and bad, based on their actions within that lifetime. This karma affects their future lives and existence. There are lots of different types of rebirth in samsara including; animals, plants and humans.

**Dharma:** Duties or responsibilities. Hindus believe that at each stage of life and in each varna there are different responsibilities. Hindus should aim to fulfil their dharma.

**The Ladder of Varna:** is another name for the Caste system. Hindus believe that you can move up and down the ladder in future lives according to how good or bad you have lived. If you gain good Karma you will get a better rebirth and move up the ladder. If you have not fulfilled your dharma and have gained bad karma then you will move down the ladder.

### Worship in Hinduism

- Hindu worship, or puja, involves images (murtis), prayers (mantras) and diagrams of the universe. Central to Hindu worship is the image, or icon, which can be worshipped either at home or in the Mandir (Hindu Temple)
- Individual rather than communal**—Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity.
- Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god. A bell is rung just before Puja begins to tell the deity’s that it is time for worship to begin.
- Worship at home**
- The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said. A shrine can be anything: a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues of the deity. Family members often worship together. Rituals should strictly speaking be performed three times a day. Some Hindus, but not all, worship wearing the sacred thread (over the left shoulder and hanging to the right hip). This is cotton for the Brahmin (priest), hemp for the Kshatriya (ruler) and wool for the vaishya (merchants).

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## Christianity

### Key Terms

Christians believe in ONE God (monotheism) who is able to do anything.

They would describe God saying he has a number of different characteristics:

OMNIPOTENT: This means that God is seen as ALL-POWERFUL (CHEAT: Remember the P in the middle of the word)

OMNISCIENT: This means that God is all knowing (CHEAT: Think Scientists think they KNOW everything!)

OMNIBENEVOLENT: This means that God is all-Loving (CHEAT: LOOK love is spelt backwards)

IMMANENT: This means that God is active in the world- in the form of Jesus

TRANSCEDENT This means that God is separate from time and space

INCARNATION This means “in flesh” – God coming to earth in the form of Jesus

ATHEISM – belief there is no God

THEISM – belief in a God

AGNOSTISM –unsure of God’s existence

### Christian Belief in God

They believe that God made the world but is also involved in it. Their understanding of God has come from their Holy Book - ‘The Bible’. The Christian understanding of God is complicated because they see God as a Father figure, in the person of Jesus and acting in the world in a form that cannot be seen. The way that Christians understand God is best explained by the concept of ‘The Trinity’.

### God the Father

Christians believe that God is the Father of everything that lives and just as we expect a father to look after his children, so Christians believe that God will look after them. They feel God takes a personal interest in them and all that he has made.

Some Christians (fundamentalists) see Genesis as a literal description of the creation of the world. Other Christians see Genesis as a myth- this means a story with a meaning- the meaning being that God created the world / God is all-powerful.

*How do Christians know about the "Father" aspect of the trinity?*

**“We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth...” Nicene Creed**

### God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit completes the Trinity. Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God’s presence in people and the world. It brings comfort, inspiration and guidance to Christians. Christians believe that Jesus left to go back to heaven he left the Holy Spirit which is an invisible presence to guide and help them. The Holy Spirit cannot be seen but is felt by Christians. Christians believe it is what guides them.

*How do Christians know about the "Holy Spirit" aspect of the trinity?*

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.” John 14:26

Christians believe in the incarnation. They believe that God came to earth as a human, as Jesus. This is the incarnation. Jesus was born to a Jewish family in Palestine. He spent time with people teaching them about God and how to live as God wanted them to. They believe Jesus was killed (crucifixion) and was brought back to life three days (resurrection) later. Christians believe God came to earth to show people how to live a better life and to save them through mending the broken relationship between humans and God. Jesus did this by dying on the cross and being raised back to life. They believe that sometime in the future when the world is ending Jesus will come back to earth again.

*How do Christians know about the "son" aspect of the trinity?*

**“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.....” (The word means JESUS) John 1:14**

### The importance of Jesus within Christianity

Jesus is known as being God ‘in the flesh’ so an incarnate of God. The stories of Jesus and his teachings help to form the Christian Holy Book – the Bible. Within this there are many teachings from Jesus guiding how a Christian should live their lives.

Parables –a story told by Jesus with a meaning within it

Why did Jesus teach using parables? By teaching through a parable it means that people had to really think and engage with the story that Jesus was telling.

*Examples of parables:*

(Matthew 13) Parable of the sower – listening to God’s word instead of ignoring it brings positive results

(Matthew 25:31-46) Parable of the Sheep and the Goats – following God’s command (like the sheep following the shepherd) to help other people will be rewarded – those who haven’t helped will be punished.

(Luke 15 11-32) The Prodigal son –God loves everyone, even those who stray away from God’s word.

Jesus is known as the ‘saviour’ as he died for the sins of humanity Jesus came to teach people God’s will for them, and to show them what life would be like in the Kingdom of God. Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah (Christ) for Christians, is important. He not only taught people about God, he showed them what God is like. Jesus was put to death on the cross. This was the **crucifixion**.

The cross is an important **symbol** for Christians. Christianity says that because Jesus (who was God) chose to die because he loved humanity and wanted to save them, all people were forgiven their sins and so had a chance to go to heaven.

Christianity teaches that **death was not the end for Jesus**. They believe that he rose from the dead on the third day, after being placed in the tomb. This is the **res-**

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**resurrection.** Christians believe that Jesus was not just a man in the past, but is a living **saviour**, relevant to their lives today.

*“As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* – This quote from the Bible tells us that people saw Jesus as a teacher, someone to look up to.

Jesus is seen as a messiah – ‘King’

Christians believe that no-one can ever understand God fully, but they also believe that God became a human being in Jesus. Through Jesus humans got to know what God is really like. Christians believe that God can be known through the teachings, miracles, death and resurrection of Jesus which are found in the four Gospels. The Gospel writers show Jesus to have power and authority. He demonstrated God-like powers when he healed people. He taught people with an authority no-one else had. He walked on water and ordered the fierce winds and waves of the sea to be quiet.

Through the person of Jesus God felt and experienced what it was like to be human. He was poor, was tempted to do things wrong but chose not to do wrong. He got hungry and thirsty, he felt filled with sadness and grief when John the Baptist died and his friends let him down. He suffered and was tortured and died an agonising death. Through Jesus, Christians believe that God understands us and what we go through in our lives. Christians believe that Jesus was GOD and also FULLY HUMAN.

The Bible teaches that:

- Jesus is the son of God
- Jesus came to earth as a human being.
- God chose a woman called Mary to be the mother of his son.
- Jesus’ birth, life and death were predicted in the Old Testament.
- Jesus came to bring people closer to God.

- They believe he was without sin (did not do things wrong)
- Christians believe that Jesus’ death and resurrection mended the broken relationship between humans and God.

.They believe that by his death Jesus willingly paid the price for all the things humans do that are wrong.

.If a person accepts Jesus as their Lord and Saviour they can have a friendship with God.

- Jesus is God in human form (incarnated)

### Charity work within Christianity

Christians promote helping others, they follow teachings from the Bible and follow the example of Jesus such as:

**Proverbs 31:8-9** “Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for **justice!** Stand up for the poor and destitute!”

**Matthew 22: 36-39** “ ‘Teacher”, he asked, “which is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart’,..... The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’

Justice involves making sure everyone is treated equally. Christians believe that God wants justice in the world, so they often try to practise it.

One way many Christians live out their beliefs that they should bring justice is to support the Fairtrade campaign. They make sure that they buy Fairtrade products and that they take part in the campaign for fairer trade laws.

### Fairtrade

One way many Christians live out their beliefs that they should bring justice is to support the Fairtrade campaign. They make sure that they buy Fairtrade products and that they take part in the campaign for fairer trade laws. Fairtrade is when people who grow and produce food (for example coffee and chocolate) and other products (e.g. clothing) are paid a fair price for their work. This helps make sure they have enough money to look after themselves and their families, and also makes sure that they work in safe conditions. Choosing fairtrade products helps improve the lives of the people who make or grow the product. It treats them in a Fair way.

Another way Christians support Justice and equality is through Charity work e.g. Christian Aid

### Christian Aid

Christian Aid works wherever it is needed in the world; no matter what religion the people are who need its help. Christian Aid works with about 570 local organisations, or partners, around the world. Partners get on with the practical work with people in their communities. Some follow a faith, some don’t. They’re called partners because they have an equal share with Christian Aid in making decisions. After all, they know what it’s really like to live in their countries.

Christian Aid believes in helping people to find their own solutions to the problems they face, and works to end poverty and change the rules that keep people poor

Christian Aid believes everyone has the right to: enough food and water; a safe place to live; be able to go to school and to see a doctor when they’re sick.

### Why atheist don’t believe in God:

Upbringing

Evil and suffering in the world – why would an all-loving and all –powerful God allow suffering in the world?

Unanswered prayers – if God is all-loving and all-powerful why would he not respond to our requests?

Scientific explanations – can we answer questions without a need to refer to God? Should we only hold value in things which can be tested objectively? – using scientific process of hypothesis / testing / repeated testing.