







Belief and Belonging

Key Terms		Core beliefs	
Philosophy	<p>In Greek, Philo means love – or devotion – and Sophia means wisdom. Philosophers are people devoted to wisdom.</p> <p>Philosophy scrutinises the claims made by religions.</p> <p>It is about using logic and reason in order to do this.</p> <p>It is about asking questions.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. • Christians believe that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus was important to save humanity from sin. • Most Christians believe in the three persons of the trinity (Holy Spirit, Jesus the son and the father) 	<p>The Big 6</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhists seek to reach a state of <i>nirvana</i> following the path of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, who went on a quest for Enlightenment around the sixth century BC. • There is no belief in a personal god. Buddhists believe that nothing is fixed or permanent and that change is always possible. The path to Enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, meditation and wisdom.
Religion	a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sikhism was founded in the 16th century in the Punjab district of what is now India and Pakistan. It was founded by Guru Nanak and is based on his teachings, and those of the 9 Sikh gurus who followed him. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judaism was founded by Moses, although Jews trace their history back to Abraham. • Jews believe that there is only one God with whom they have a covenant. • Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious document is the Torah.
Seven Dimensions of Religion	Professor Ninian Smart spent many years thinking about what religions look like. He decided that they have seven common features. He called them the seven dimensions	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1400 years ago in Mecca, Arabia. • Followers of Islam are called Muslims. • Muslims believe that there is only One God. • The Arabic word for God is Allah. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinduism originated around the Indus Valley near the River Indus in modern day Pakistan. • About 80% of the Indian population regard themselves as Hindu. • Most Hindus believe in a Supreme God, whose qualities and forms are represented by the multitude of deities which emanate from him.
Census	An official count or survey of a population, typically recording various details of individuals, including religion and gender. Census in 2001 recorded 390,127 practicing Jedi's.		
Key Spellings		Weblinks	Key Teachings
God	When talking about Christianity God must always have a capital letter.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/	<p>“Love thy neighbour” – Christianity</p> <p>“Treat others as you want to be treated” – Golden rule (featured within all religions in some format)</p>
Belief	Christians have a belief in God.		

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Believe	I believe in Christianity therefore I am a Christian	Key Questions Can a belief system be a religion if it does not contain all of Ninian Smart's Seven dimensions?	
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