

Week 1

What do Humanists believe?

Humanism=Non-religious/ Atheists

Humanists believe it is possible to lead a good, happy, and meaningful life without the need for religion.

Key beliefs

- **Humans are natural and have potential**-We evolved naturally; if we use our potential, we can lead good and happy lives.
- **Use science to understand the natural world(no belief in God)**- Science is the best way to understand the world.
- **We have one life and the freedom to find happiness**-We should make the most of the one life we have and find meaning ourselves.
- **We should use empathy and consider the impact of our actions**-When acting we should consider others.
- **We have human responsibility** -Human beings alone are responsible for making the world a better place.

Humanist approaches to life



Science explains the world.



Our actions have an impact



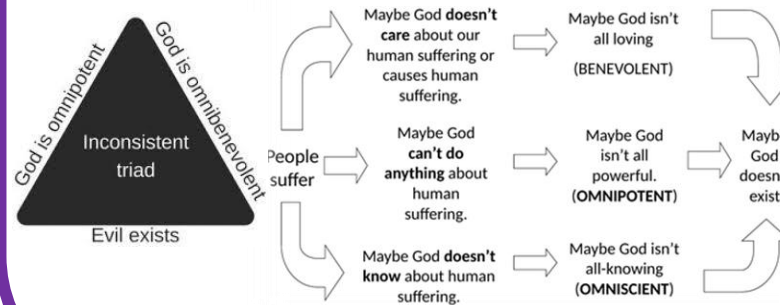
We make our own happiness

Week 2

Humanism and God- The problem of Evil

- Humanists accept that they can't PROVE there is no god.
- But no good evidence= No God
- Freedom to choose to believe in God or not
- It's not up to atheists to disprove God. It is up to Theists to prove God exists.
- However; Humanists argue that because there is evil and suffering in the world God does not exist.

The Inconsistent Triad



Week 3

How do Humanists explain our existence?

Humanists look to logic(science) to explain our existence.



The Big Bang- 14 billion years ago the universe was inside a bubble that exploded. The universe grew and continues to grow today. The universe stretched, cooled and started to fill with cloud of gas.

Evolution- Simple life forms develop and get used to their environment better than other life forms and survive. As time passes the life forms that have adapted continue to survive and develop. Those that don't adapt die.



How does this compare to religious views?

- **Theists(someone who believes in God)** would argue that God can explain our existence. They believe God created the universe and everything on earth.
- **They would look to religious teachings/scripture as their source of knowledge** such as the Bible(Christianity), the Quran (Islam) and the Vedas (Hinduism).

Humanists would argue that scientific theories give evidence which can be proven whereas religious theories cannot be proven.

Week 4

Humanist Ethics- Do we need religion to be a good person?

- Humanists **do not have a holy book** that tells them what is right or wrong.
- When deciding what is right or wrong humanists believe we should use **empathy and reason** considering what is best for others when making decisions.
- They do not believe humans are punished or rewarded for their actions after death. They do not believe in an afterlife. We are rewarded and punished in this life. For example, if you are kind to others, they will be kind back. The law punishes wrongdoers.
- Humanists try to care for humans and animals so that everyone can live a good and happy life.



Golden rule-treat others as you would like to be treated.



JAMES BALDWIN, author

"The world is before you and you need not take it or leave it as it was before you came in."

Baldwin (a Humanist) worked to help raise public awareness of racial and sexual oppression(unjust treatment).

Humanism in action

- Many humanists believe that the responsibility for making the world a better place lies with human beings alone.
- **It is important to act** in the here and now rather than wishing or hoping for justice(fair treatment).

Year 9: Topic 1 Humanism

Week 5

Humanist ceremonies

Some Humanists choose to mark **key life stages(rites of passage)** in their lives such as weddings, naming ceremonies and funerals however this is **not compulsory**.

Humanist ceremonies often share common themes with religions such as exchanging of vows at a wedding, sharing the life of a passed loved ones at a funeral or sharing a new life with family and friends at a naming ceremony.

Humanist do not have a place of worship. They have no set place for ceremonies this is down to personal choice.

Humanist ceremonies are often **personalised** to individuals so not one ceremony will be the same.

Humanist celebrant- Someone who conducts/leads the ceremony.

Key words:

- **Atheist**- Does not believe in God/Gods
- **Theist**-someone who believes in the existence of God.
- **Omnipotent**-All powerful
- **Omnibenevolent**-All loving
- **Omniscient**-All knowing
- **Humanist celebrant**- Someone who conducts/leads the ceremony.

Week 1

Questions	Answers
Humanists are Atheists, what does this mean?	They do not believe in God.
What are the three Humanist approaches to life?	Science explains the world. Our actions have an impact. We make our own happiness.
How does science apply to what Humanists believe?	Humanists believe we evolved naturally if we use our potential, we can lead good and happy lives. Science is the best way to understand the world.
How do humanists find meaning in life?	Humans should make the most of the one life we have and find meaning and happiness for ourselves.
When making decisions what should humanists consider?	Humans should use empathy and consider others. It important we take responsibility.

Week 2

Questions	Answers
Why do Humanists argue that God does not exist?	Humanists argue that because there is evil and suffering in the world God does not exist
What does Omnipotent mean?	All powerful
What does Omniscient mean?	All knowing
What does Omnibenevolent mean?	All loving
Explain how evil and suffering is used to argue God does not exist.	Humanists argue that because God is omnipotent, he has the power to stop suffering. God is omniscient he knows it's happening, and God is omnibenevolent so God should want to stop the suffering. But God doesn't therefore God does not exist.

Week 3

Questions	Answers
How do Humanists explain our existence?	Humanists use science to explain our existence.
Which two theories do Humanists use to explain our existence?	Big Bang and Evolution.
How would a theist explain our existence?	Theists would argue that God created the universe.
Where would be a theist source of knowledge?	A Theists source of knowledge would come from their religious teachings/scripture such as the Bible(Christianity), the Quran (Islam) and the Vedas (Hinduism).
Why do Humanists use science rather than religious teachings/scripture?	Humanists believe scientific theories can be proven whereas religious theories cannot be proven.

Year 8: Topic 1 Humanism

Week 4

Questions	Answers
How do Humanists know what is right from wrong?	Humanists use empathy and reason to consider what is best.
Are Humanist rewarded or punished after death?	Humanists do not believe in life after death. They believe we are rewarded and punished in this life. For example, when we break the law we could go to prison. When we are kind to others, they are more likely to be kind back.
What is the golden rule?	Treat others how you would like to be treated.
Who is responsible for making the world a better place?	It is down to humans to take responsibility for making the world a better place.
Who is James Baldwin?	James Baldwin is an author who worked to raise awareness of racial and sexual oppression.

Week 5

Questions	Answers
Are humanist ceremonies compulsory in Humanism?	No, it is a personal choice.
When might a humanist choose to have a ceremony?	It is not compulsory for a humanist to have ceremonies however some Humanists choose to mark key life stages (Rites of passage).
What would a humanist ceremony look like?	No humanist ceremony would look the same. Every ceremony if they choose to have one is personal but often share common themes with religious ceremonies such as exchanging vows at a wedding.
Where do Humanists worship?	Humanists do not worship as they do not believe in God. They have no set place for ceremonies. This is down to personal choice.
What name is given to someone who conducts/leads a humanist ceremony?	Celebrant.

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