THRESHOLD CONCEPTS IN RE



These concepts help to unlock understanding of religion and worldviews

RE is a multidisciplinary subject – what do you call a student of RE?



Theology – The study of God and the nature of belief.

Philosophy – asking big questions about knowledge, existence and reality.

Sociology (of religion) – role and impact of religion and spirituality on the politics, culture, education, and health of the **modern** world.

My lens

Key concepts in studying religion.

Religious believers of a religion don't all believe the same thing or understand the religion in the same way, even within the same **denomination**.

An example of this are the *sacred texts*.

Here are some of the main concepts that help us understand religion in greater depth and why religion can be complicated.

DIVERSITY

'…difference or variety.'

Religious believers don't all practice (do) the same religious rituals or ceremonies or believe the same thing. There is difference within religions at a local, historical and global level.

For example:

Some Hindu's worship in Mandir's and some worship at home.





MISCONCEPTIONS

'…a view or opinion that is incorrect because based on faulty thinking or understanding.'

An example of this would be that all Christians disagree homosexuality. This is not true.

Or, that all Muslims are terrorists. This is not true.

These misconceptions must be discussed and corrected. This is one of the reasons why it is important to be educated in religion.



INTERPRETATION

'…to decide on or explain the meaning of something or to understand something in a particular way.'

For example:

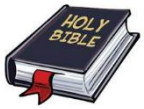
Creation



Religious clothing



A sacred text



SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

'…the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.'

Religions have different sources of authority and they are viewed and valued in different ways.



INFLUENCE



'…the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behaviour of someone or something, or the effect itself.'

Religion has an effect on the way religious and sometimes non religious people live their lives, how they behave, their actions as individuals and as communities in society, in the past and today.

The shape of our week is religious - the seven-day cycle with a day of rest.

The academic year revolves around Christmas and Easter holidays.

SECULAR BELIEFS AND CHALLENGES

'…not connected with religious or spiritual matters.'

An example are Humanists.

'They believe that this is the only life we have, that the world is a natural place with no supernatural side, and that we have the freedom to shape our own lives.

They have trusted to the scientific method, evidence, and reason to discover truths about the universe and have placed human welfare and happiness at the centre of their ethical decision making.

Humanism » Humanists UK

Humanists UK

SYMBOLISM

'…Religious symbols are a way to unite members of a common faith tradition, and to indicate to others the religious tradition they represent.

