



# Religious Education Year 11 Christian and Hindu practices



## Key Knowledge

### Hinduism

- Hindus believe that the world was created by Brahman. The Hindu story explains that there was an ocean with a snake upon it. Vishnu rested on the snake and from him grew Brahma, who then set to work and created everything.
- Hindus believe that the cosmic being (purusha) split society into four groups. First came the Brahmins, priests (which came from the cosmic beings head). Then came the Kshatriyas, the warriors (came from the cosmic beings arms). Thirdly there was the Vaishyas, the merchants (who came from his legs). Lastly the Shudras, the servants (who came from his feet). The idea was that all groups are equal and needed for society to run smoothly.
- However later this dividing of society became a rigid concept and people are born into a group and there is little movement.
- The world is split into material you can see and touch (prakriti) and that which is beyond this realm (purusha).
- Hindus also believe in the vaikuntha, a spiritual planet that cannot be seen where the Gods exist.
- Hindus believe that every man has a duty which is dependent on the social group you belong to (varna), the stage of life you are in (ashrama), hence the belief in varnashramadharma.
- Every Hindu must aim to fulfill the four aims of life.

### Christianity

- Christians believe that man is born with sin and that Jesus died for us and paid for those sins. Through his death God and man were reconciled and back into a good relationship, atonement.
- The belief is that man had lost its way and was not following the teachings of the Bible. Jesus also came to guide up back to the righteous path.
- Over the years there have been many different groups created within Christianity (denominations). Unfortunately over time these groups have fallen out. The Ecumenical movement seeks to reconcile different Christians and bring them together. Throughout the Christian calendar there are many Ecumenical events, where Christians from different denominations come together to worship. Coventry Cathedral has a whole area dedicated also to the Ecumenical movement and often holds events there for different Christians.
- Taize and Walsingham are the two main places of pilgrimage for Christians. Taize is in France and is often referred to as the city of tents. Many Christians from different denominations come here to pray and live alongside each other. Walsingham is in the UK, there once stood a replica of the place Mary was told she would give birth to our saviour. It has been torn down but Christians still go.

## Key Vocabulary

Cosmology	The Hindu belief of the origin and development of the universe
Prakriti	The cosmic material that is the root of all beings (material you can see and touch)
Purusha	Exists beyond the realm of all time and space (material you cannot see or touch)
Four aims	The four goals a Hindu must fulfil in life
Artha	Aim 1- to earn money honestly and provide for families and do well in business
Dharma	Aim 2- to fulfil ones duty
Moksha	Aim 3- to stop the cycle of rebirth and rest with Brahman
Kama	Aim 4- to enjoy the pleasures of life, artistic, social and sensual
Pilgrimage	A religious journey
Ecumenical	To work with different Christian denominations, allowing them to forgive and find peace with each other
Atonement	The reconciliation of Man with God
Salvation	To deliver mans soul from evil through the death of Jesus
Triguna	The three personalities that you could be, raja, sattva, tamas
Santana dharma	All Hindus duties towards Brahman

Taize, Walsingham, Journey, Sin, Jesus, reconciliation, denominations, crucifixion, prakriti, purusha, cosmic being, creation, trimurti, dharma, varnaashramadharma, man, soul, atonement, universe, cosmology