

KS3 Humanism module extracted from 2012 Surrey Agreed Syllabus for RE

KEY STAGE 3	ASU	HOW DO NON-RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ANSWER THE BIG QUESTIONS?	HUMANISM	6 – 8 hrs
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES Pupils should:	LEARNING OUTCOMES AT1 By the end of the unit pupils should be able to:	LEARNING OUTCOMES AT2 By the end of the unit pupils should be able to:
<p>Understand what Humanism is and its origins</p> <p>Understand how Humanists would answer the Big Questions such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are we here? what is life about? • Why do people suffer? • What happens when we die? • How did the world come about? <p>Consider the methods Humanists use to develop their beliefs, eg reason, experience, scientific method of enquiry, unending questioning</p> <p>Appreciate that Humanists develop their moral guidance from :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of reason, experience, compassion, empathy and respect • Past evidence as well consideration of the likely consequences of actions. • Understanding that those who care about others usually have better relationships and more fulfilling lives • Importance of the golden rule <p>Reflect on how Humanism relates to Atheism and Agnosticism</p>	<p>Explain why not all atheists and agnostics are Humanists but all Humanists are either atheist or agnostic</p> <p>Evaluate what may be lost and gained for a person choosing to become a Humanist</p> <p>Articulate the scientific method of enquiry and explain its association with Humanism</p> <p>Identify phrases or sentences in a Humanist manifesto or statement which define a Humanist as more than an atheist or an agnostic.</p> <p>Investigate how the belief that this life is all there is affects Humanist attitudes.</p>	<p>Identify and evaluate the main differences between a Humanist and religious viewpoint</p> <p>Evaluate and compare Humanist values and religious values and assess against own values</p> <p>To explain why Humanists believe that nothing can be known with absolute certainty</p> <p>Evaluate the reasons that Humanists hold to support their rejection of religious ideas such as a belief in God or life after death.</p> <p>Suggest some examples of meanings and purposes to life that Humanists might come up with.</p>

KEY QUESTIONS	POSSIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT1 Opportunities to:	POSSIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT2 Opportunities to:
<p>What do Humanists believe? Why do Humanists believe that certain things are right or wrong? Why do you? How do Humanists find meaning and purpose in their lives? How do you? How might Humanist views differ from those of other non-religious people? Why do Humanists not believe in God or an after life? Is Humanism a religion? Was Stalin a Humanist? Where do Humanists get their beliefs from? What are the similarities and differences between religion and Humanism? Are Humanists “spiritual”?</p>	<p>Research a prominent Humanist and report on how that person’s life is a good example of someone creating meaning and purpose for themselves e.g. Sir Julian Huxley, Bertrand Russell, Claire Rayner , Lord Boyd-Orr, Charles Bradlaugh, John Stuart Mill, Mary Wollstonecraft, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mikhael Gorbachev, Francis Crick, Carl Sagan, Stephen Fry, Richard Dawkins</p> <p>Discuss a moral dilemma (e.g. whether to cheat on a test or whether to report someone they discovered cheating) and the right course of action using only reason, compassion and the situation itself as a guide.</p> <p>Explore examples illustrating why Humanists don’t believe in hard and fast rules e.g. most people think killing is wrong but is it wrong to kill a suicide bomber about to detonate a bomb? Is it wrong to punish a mother who steals food for her starving children?</p> <p>Devise a Humanist ceremony for a baby naming, wedding, civil partnership or a funeral. How is it different from a religious ceremony?</p> <p>Explore why the Humanist’s belief that this is the one life we have does not depress them but makes it important to live it well. Could use the British Humanist Association’s Teaching Toolkit 6, video clip <i>‘Is this the only life we have?’</i> in which five Humanists, including Philip Pullman present a variety of considerations.</p> <p>The “happy human” symbol was chosen by Humanist organisations all around the world as a</p>	<p>Look at the contrasting beliefs of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi and consider how these two men nonetheless worked together to achieve social reform and independence for India.</p> <p>Ask pupils to write about a friendship or other significant relationship with another person who doesn’t share their beliefs. How is the relationship of benefit to both parties?</p> <p>Humanists do not believe in an after-life but value the opportunity to live on in the memories of those who they leave behind. How would you most like to be remembered?</p> <p>Devise a quiz for determining whether someone is a Humanist. How does it compare with the British Humanist Association’s version? http://www.Humanism.org.uk/Humanism/are-you-a-Humanist</p> <p>Consider where people get their ideas of right and wrong, e.g. parents, personal experience, reason, school, peers, religion or belief, common sense, etc. Do their ideas of right and wrong change with the circumstance?</p>

	<p>symbol of Humanism. How do you think it reflects what you know of the beliefs and values of Humanism? Can you design a better symbol?</p> <p>Draw up lists of: 'five things I know' and 'five things I believe' and discuss the differences between the two lists.</p>			
LINKS WITH OTHER UNITS ACROSS KEY STAGES	KEY VOCABULARY	POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLATING ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE		
<p>KS1 What are your big questions? KS2 How did it all begin? KS3 Christian Ethics: Is there a right way to live? KS3 Philosophy: How can we know anything? KS3 Comparative: What does it mean to be a hero? KS3 Philosophy: What is religion? KS3 Philosophy: Is death the end?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Humanist Atheist Agnostic Spiritual Golden Rule Belief Faith </td> <td> Secular Values Scepticism Free thinking Rational Scientific method Religion </td> </tr> </table>	Humanist Atheist Agnostic Spiritual Golden Rule Belief Faith	Secular Values Scepticism Free thinking Rational Scientific method Religion	<p>AT1 Students should be assessed on their knowledge of the core beliefs of Humanism. They should be able to articulate what the scientific method is and why it is of importance to Humanists.</p> <p>AT2 Students could be presented with an ethical dilemma and asked to explain how they would resolve it using Humanist principles. They should be able to evaluate any differences from a resolution that might have been arrived at from using a religious perspective.</p>
Humanist Atheist Agnostic Spiritual Golden Rule Belief Faith	Secular Values Scepticism Free thinking Rational Scientific method Religion			
Possible Resources	A short introduction to Humanism	Cont...		
<p>Humanism for schools website http://www.Humanismforschools.org.uk/ British Humanist Association http://www.Humanism.org.uk/ and references What is Humanism http://www.Humanism.org.uk/Humanism History of Humanism http://www.Humanism.org.uk/Humanism/Humanist-tradition Humanists working for a better world http://www.Humanism.org.uk/Humanism/Humanist-tradition/working-for-a-better-world International Humanist and Ethical Union http://www.iheu.org/</p>	<p>Humanism is an ethical philosophy based on reason, experience and shared human values. Humanists believe that people can create for themselves meaning and purpose in the one life they know they have, for example through their families and communities, through helping other people, through worthwhile projects and activities. Humanists believe in the importance of morality, Human Rights, democracy, free speech, mutual respect and tolerance.</p>	<p>They think the best way for understanding the world is from evidence and science. Humanists also believe its important to nurture emotions, for example awe at the beauty of the night sky or a piece of music.. In short Humanists are ethical agnostics or atheists who believe they can live moral and rewarding lives without religious beliefs. They believe having a meaningful life and being happy has a lot to do with helping to make other people happy. :</p>		