

Yr 8 Core knowledge to learn for the exam.

What is the meaning of life?

1. **What do Sikhs believe about the one God (Ik Onkaar)?** The first verse of the Sikh holy book (The Guru Granth Sahib Ji) says that God is eternal, creator, beyond time and can be known through the teachings of the Gurus.
2. **What are the two meanings of the word “Hukam” for Sikhs?** i) It is the first verse on a page selected at random in the Gurdwara every day – the “command of the Guru”. ii) It means “Divine will”. Sikhs accept that everything in the universe happens according to the will of a divine God.
3. **How might hukam bring meaning to the life of a Sikh?** i) It helps them to find purpose for their day and is a reminder of doing what God wants. ii) It serves to remind them that even when times are tough, this is according to God’s will so they should continue to serve God and all people at all times.
4. **How does vand chhakna help to bring meaning to a Sikh’s life?** It is the idea of living a life based on principles of generosity and self-sacrifice. This gives Sikhs the purpose to put the needs of others first.
5. **For many Sikhs, one way they can fulfil the principle of vand chhakna is by doing sewa. Give 3 examples of things Sikhs might do as their sewa.** Serving food in the langar (kitchen where anyone can be fed); cleaning the gurdwara, doing voluntary work, teaching the Guru Granth Sahib Ji to others, visiting the sick etc.
6. **What is the rehat maryada?** The Sikh code of conduct which relates to all aspects of being a Sikh.
7. **How does being a member of the khalsa help some Sikhs to find meaning in their life?** They are members of the community of baptised Sikhs who have promised to live their lives in a certain way, such as not drinking alcohol or cutting their hair. This helps them draw closer to God but also to other members of the Khalsa who face the same challenges of living this way.
8. **How could the Jewish holy books help Jews to find meaning in their life?** The scriptures provide all the laws that Jewish people should live according to, as well as their history as a people. The Talmud gives instruction from Rabbis (Jewish teachers) about how to interpret the laws. This all helps them to know who God expects them to behave towards Him and towards others.
9. **How do the covenant promises made thousands of years ago help Jews today?** The covenant is a two way promise made between God and his early followers that they should worship only Him and in turn he would make them His chosen people. This helps Jews to feel like they are chosen by God which helps them to find purpose in their lives.
10. **Bal Taschit – “Do not destroy” is an important command in Judaism. What does it relate to?** It relates to all of God’s creation which Jews believe they should protect and not destroy.
11. **How does Bal Taschit relate to Tikkun Olam?** Bal Taschit means to not destroy God’s creation; Tikkun Olam takes this a step further and is about repairing the world – this includes fighting injustice where it is seen as well as helping to protect the environment.

12. **What does it mean to be a Humanist?** Humanists believe that the answers to life's big questions are not found in belief in God, but through human thought and what humans have investigated or figured out so far.
13. **What does AC Grayling say about how to find happiness?** We should put our faith in fellow human beings; a good life has good relationships at its heart. The meaning of life is what you make it.
14. **What are the 10 Commitments?** A set of commitments Humanists try to live by to aid all human beings. These include: critical thinking, peace and social justice, environmentalism, global awareness, empathy etc.

Why does God have so many names?

1. **What do the 99 names of Allah represent?** Each name is a characteristic or attribute of God (Allah). These include names such as "the merciful", "the judge", "the truth", "the witness" etc.
2. **Why do Muslims believe you should not depict Allah using images?** An image can never reflect the true nature of God; images can be treated with disrespect or worshipped. To worship something or attribute God-like qualities to anything other than Allah is shirk (blasphemy).
3. **What is the trinity?** The complex Christian belief that there is one God in Christianity that has 3 "persons": Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person of God has a different role to play but all have the same attributes and characteristics.
4. **What are some of the names that Jesus used to describe himself in John's Gospel?** "I am the light of the world", "I am the gate for the sheep", "I am the true vine", "I am the bread of life", "I am the good shepherd", "I am the way, the truth and the life".
5. **Why do Jews not write out the full name of God?** They believe the name of God is too holy to be written or confined to paper. The Torah prohibits Jews from erasing, destroying or desecrating the name of God.
6. **Which Hebrew name for God do Reform Jews feel comfortable using?** Adonai, which means the Lord.
7. **What does it mean to Jews to say that God is holy, just and merciful?** These are three of God's most important characteristics that show that God is unique, fair and deals with each person with compassion, even when it comes to judging sin.
8. **How many gods to Hindus believe in?** There is one Supreme Spirit (Brahman) in Hinduism and three main aspects of Brahman's nature: creator, preserver and destroyer. There are thousands of gods, some of whom have lived on earth, who each represent Brahman.
9. **What are the three main aspects of Brahman's nature?** Brahma is the creator, Vishnu is the preserver and Shiva the destroyer.