

YEAR 7 - WHAT IS A RELIGION? 2

⊗ PAGANISM: ⊗ ⊗ ⊗

Introduction: Paganism is a word which defines a number of alternative religions.

There have been Pagans for hundreds of years in the UK. There are up to 2000 living in the UK. They share the following similar beliefs:

Ecology → The study of the natural world. Pagans place great importance on nature. They worship in natural surroundings and try to protect the environment.

Polytheism → The belief in more than one God. They don't believe in one all powerful God like monotheists. Their gods are part of nature like the Green Forest Man and they are equal to humans.

Animism → Pagans believe that all things have a soul or spirit-like the Jain belief in a Jiva. Animism shows that we are all equal. Animals and plants have souls like ours so should be protected.

Wicca → One of the most common types of Pagan. Wiccans practice traditional witchcraft, using the natural world. Their spells and potions always aim to help others.

Is Paganism a religion?

Yes!

- Followers and groups
- Such as animism.
- They worship special times of the year.

No!

- No strict rules to follow
- So many different groups who all believe different things
- No belief of holy book in one place of God.

♀ ♀ ♀ HUMANISM: ♀ ♀ ♀

Humanism in the UK today: Many Humanists in the UK are working on the following campaigns:

- 1) Trying to ensure people can have non-religious ceremonies, like weddings
- 2) Trying to remove religion from politics.
- 3) Less faith schools in the UK

Key ideas: People who are Humanists often agree on the following:

- Trust science to be able to explain our universe and answer big questions.
- Reject all supernatural, including a belief in God.
- We only get one life so we should live it to the fullest.
- They believe humans can figure out how to behave morally on our own.



Is Humanism a religion?

Yes → They have lots of followers. They have key values by which they live their lives.

No → Most importantly, Humanists do not class themselves as a religion. They have no beliefs, God, or a place of worship or Holy Book.

What is Humanism?

Humanism ideas all began in the UK in 1946 but there have been Humanist society since 1896 through human history.

History: The Humanist society began in the UK in 1946 but there have been Humanist society since 1896 through human history.

Difference between Humanism and atheism:

Atheism - tells you one thing about a person - that they don't believe in God.

Humanism - tells you all of the above about a person. It is a way of life.

