

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Religious Studies: Arguments about God

Assalamu Alaikum and Welcome!



Have a **pen and notebook**



Mics **OFF** and cameras **ON**



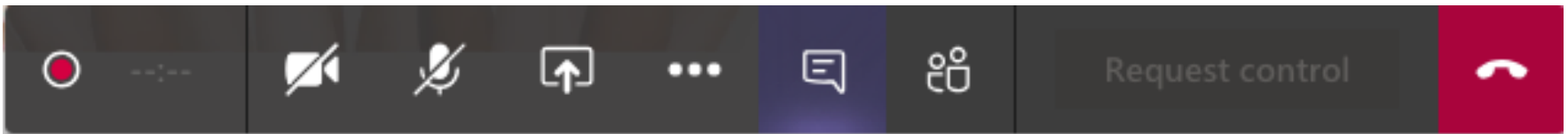
Write any questions/answers in the **chat**

Starter

Write now in the chat:

- 1) Where you are from
- 2) THREE words you think of when you hear the word

GOD



Religious Studies: Arguments about God

- LO1: Know different beliefs about God
- LO2: Understand reasons why people do or don't believe in God
- LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing



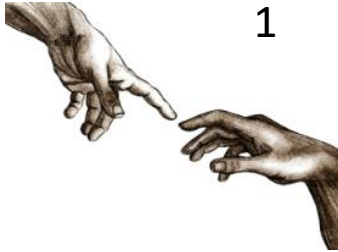
is believed to have many **names** and **attributes** (sifaat) which describe [His nature...](#)

Match the picture with an attribute

2



1



3



4



5



6



Benevolent (All-loving)

Perfect

Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

Immanent (near us)

Creator

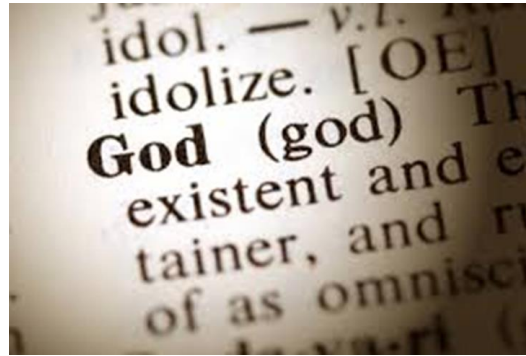
Just (fair)

Stretch activity

List another 3-5 attributes of God.

See Surah Al Fatiha & Surah Al-Hashr (59: 23-25) for clues





- *the creator and ruler of the universe*
- *source of all moral authority*
- *the supreme being*
- *a superhuman being or spirit worshipped as having power over nature or human fortunes*
- *a deity*

But not everyone is convinced...

LO1: Know different beliefs about God



✓ Theism: the belief that God exists (theist)

? Agnosticism: the belief that we cannot be certain whether God exists or not (agnostic)

✗ Atheism: the belief someone who does not believe that God exists (atheist)

LO2: Understand reasons why people do or don't believe in God

Which of the following images represent **theism** and **atheism**?

Write in the chat with brief explanations



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



LO2: Understand reasons why people do or don't believe in God

THEISM

Nature is beautiful



God answers prayers



Good actions occur

The universe needs
a creator



ATHEISM

Evil actions occur



Chance







Nature can be
destructive

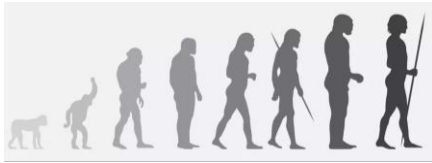


Science can explain
life



There are lots of different arguments about God...

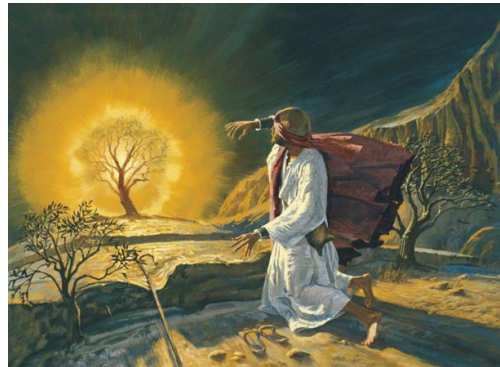
- Design (Teleological) 
- Cosmological (First Cause)
- Evolution 
- Suffering 
- Experience 



How is God experienced?



- Revelations
- Visions
- Dreams
- Miracles
- Prophecies
- Prayers



*What specific examples can you think of?
Write 'Me' in the chat if you wish to answer*





- What do scientists do?
- How do they provide evidence?
- Why do we trust them?



Scientific theories must be:

- based on available evidence (observation / experimentation)
- testified by experts (people with the right qualifications)

**Can the existence of God be proven
in the same way?**

‘Seeing is believing’...

If someone told you they had seen a ghost, would you believe them? Be ready to answer with an explanation...

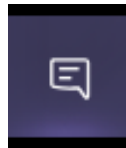


‘Seeing is believing’...

There are many things that we believe in without asking to see them – and also because they are not physically observable:

- Electricity
- Time
- Love
- Thoughts

Can you think of any more?





Here are some people who were convinced of the existence of God. Who are they?

Write 'Me' in the chat if you wish to answer





Many people believed in the Promised Messiah (as) because they were convinced that their faith was:

- based on available evidence
- testified by other righteous people



Similar
to
science!



Three types of knowledge

1) Knowledge through **inference**

(e.g. seeing smoke, inferring fire)



2) Knowledge through **observation**

(e.g. seeing fire)



3) Knowledge through **experience**

(e.g. feeling fire)



LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing

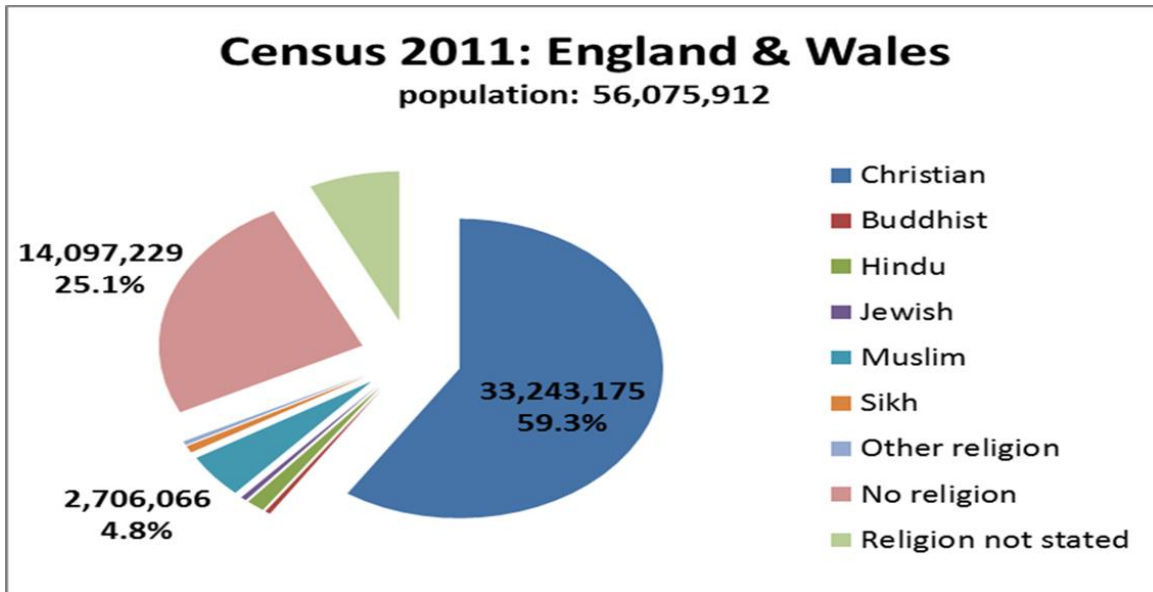
Experience of **God** proven by...

- 124,000 Prophets
- Khalifas of Prophets
- Companions of Prophets
- Mujaddideen
- Saints
- Scholars...



LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing

... and people from all walks of life

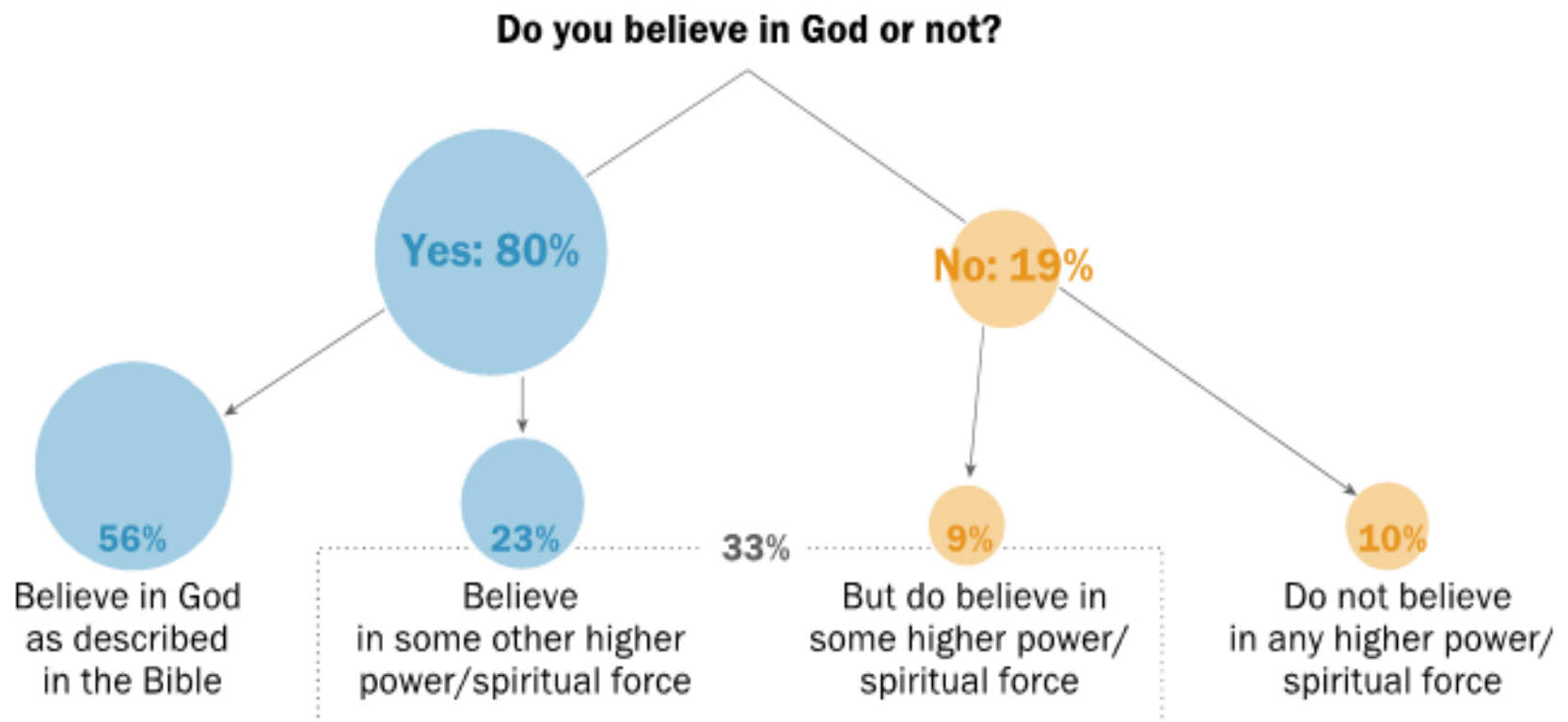


Up to **half** of adult populations of **UK and USA** said they have been '**aware of a presence or power beyond themselves**'

(Sir Alister Hardy Oxford Research Centre for Religious Experience)

LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing

One-third of U.S. adults believe in a higher power of some kind, but not in God as described in Bible



Note: Don't know or unclear responses not shown. Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

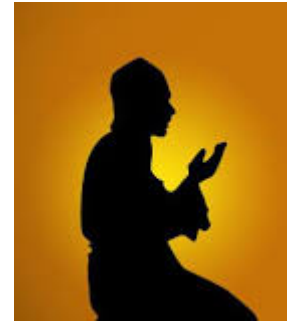
Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.

"When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: ‘I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me...’” (Surah 2: 187)



“We are nearer to him than *even his jugular vein*.” (Surah 50: 17)



“To Allah belong the East and the West; so withersoever you turn, there will be the face of Allah.” (Surah 2: 116)



“If My servant comes one span nearer to Me, I go one cubit nearer to him... and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.” (Hadith – Bukhari)



Task: Choose one of these teachings and explain how and why it can be used to prove God's existence

Stretch: How might an atheist respond, and what reply could a theist give?

LO3: Consider whether arguments about God are convincing



- Has the question ‘Does God exist?’ been easier or more difficult to answer? Why?
- Are arguments for God’s existence convincing or not? Give an example.
- What one proof would you present to an atheist or agnostic about God’s existence?



Write down:

- Any three things that you learnt today
- One question you would like to ask
- Email your responses to talimadd1@ahmadiyyauk.org



Complete this survey straight after the lesson:

<http://ahmadiyya.uk/talim/feedback-student/>



Next Religious Studies lesson

Tuesday 5th May @ 11am: **Qur'an, Sunnah and Hadith (GCSE)**

Sign up and encourage others too!

Religious Studies home learning:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zb48q6f>

<http://www.sourcesofwisdom.org.uk/>

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03zf45d/clips>

<https://www.audiopi.co.uk/subjects/religious-studies>

<http://re-definitions.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3lKZp31jBVJ2v3C2h1V03kz/a-to-z-of-religion-and-beliefs>

Questions from last Y7-8 RS lesson...

Can you shed light on why people are turning away from religion? (Atiyatul Aleem)

Is the coronavirus a test from God? (Zahaa Malik)

Why does Allah make Christianity bigger than Islam? (Naseer Uddin)

Do Buddhists believe in 1 god or more? (Zaresh)

Are people turning away or to religion? (Jalees)

How many religions are there in the world in total? (Farhanah)

Why do some people believe in no God? (Amna Marium)

Why did Allah create Islamophobia? (Farrah Malik)

If Allah is real why is their bad things happening for example Taliban or coronavirus? (Zafrullah Ahmed)

Why did Allah create disease for us to die? (Kazeem Rehman)

If Allah created a virus why isn't there a cure for it? (Zahaa Malik)

Wednesday 8th July @ 11am: If God exists, why is there suffering?