


Recap on Lesson 1

- Briefly recap on Lesson 1 and on how different subjects help us to develop in different ways and teach us new skills.
- Tell the students that this lesson will focus on the importance of Religious Education.

Learning Intentions

- Show **Slide 2**, the 'Learning Intentions' for this lesson.



Learning Intentions

In this lesson you will be learning:

- that there are many world faiths and religious believers;
- why studying Religious Education is important;
- how religious faith can help us in our lives.

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Starter Exercise

- Show **Slide 3**, which invites the students to match the symbols for the five major world religions/faiths with the names of each one. Students may identify the correct pairs verbally.
- Ask the students if they know of any other world faiths/religions. It is important that the students appreciate that there are many different world religions/faiths.

Starter Exercise

Match each of the symbols with one of the five major world religions named below.

- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Judaism
- Christianity

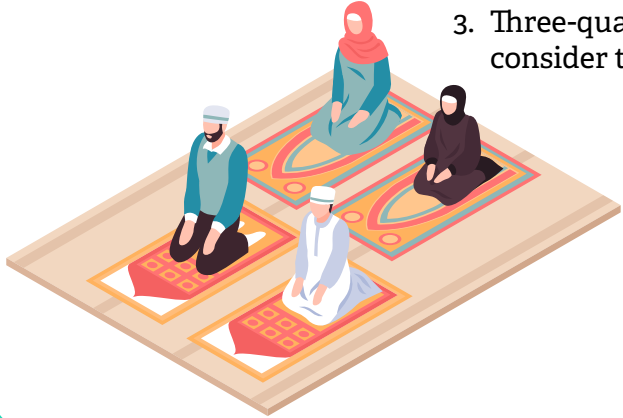
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Let's Work It Out ...

- Show **Slide 4**, which asks students to choose which of the three statements is true. How many students think that it's the first statement? Ask for a show of hands, etc.

One of the following statements is true and two are false. Which statement is true?


1. Only one quarter of the world's population consider themselves to be religious.
2. One half of the world's population consider themselves to be religious.
3. Three-quarters of the world's population consider themselves to be religious.



The illustration shows four people in prayer on a large, patterned rug. In the foreground, a man in a white thobe and ghutra is kneeling in prayer. Behind him, a woman in a red headscarf and blue dress is kneeling. To the right, another woman in a black hijab and black dress is kneeling. In the background, a man in a blue thobe and white ghutra is kneeling. The rug has a central red and white pattern.

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- Show **Slide 5** to reveal that statement no. 3 is the true statement. Mention to the students that this means that three out of every four people in the world have religious beliefs. Ask the students for their reactions to this.



The illustration shows a person in a green shirt and dark pants standing on a wooden ladder, placing a light blue cube on top of a stack of three pink cubes. A grey cloud is floating above the stack. The scene is set against a white background with a teal border.

The true statement is:

Statement 3:

Three-quarters of the world's population consider themselves to be religious.

Does the answer surprise you? Why/Why not?

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Let's Think ... What's different about Religion class?

- Show **Slide 6**, which makes some points about what we learn/do in Religion class.
- Invite the students to share their own opinions about why Religion class is different from other subjects.

What's different about Religion class?



- Religion is a very special subject. In Religion class we take time to reflect on the world and on life. This helps us to be more aware of the presence of God in the world.
- People of all religions are interested in learning about God. Religion class gives us the opportunity to do that.
- In Religion class we learn about the beliefs and practices of our own religion as well as about those of other faith traditions.

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Let's Work Together ...

- Show **Slides 7 and 8**, which explore further some of the reasons why Religion is an important subject. Invite the students to respond verbally to each point.



Why is Religion a special and important subject?

- Religion class helps to nurture our relationship with God and with others and encourages us to value and care for the environment.
- It helps us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a person of faith in today's world.
- It encourages us to ask questions about the world, about ourselves and about other people, and this helps us to understand where different beliefs come from and why people view the world differently.

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Let's Work Together ...

- At this point, you might refer the students to the definition of **Religious Education** that is in the Glossary at the back of their workbook.
- Now invite the students to complete **Worksheet 3**, where they will try to articulate what Religion class means for them.

Why is Religion a special and important subject?

- Religion class helps us to learn about and respect the religious beliefs of others, as well as helping us to be more confident about expressing our own faith.
- **Religious Education** helps us to be informed about (or simply 'to know') what our faith teaches so that we can make good decisions about what to believe, what things are most important and how to make good choices.
- Religion class will challenge you to think and act justly and help you to identify the values and attitudes that influence your behaviour and the behaviour of others. It will constantly remind you of how special you are to God, and that God loves you and is with you at all times.




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Let's Pray ...

Show **Slide 9**. Prayerfully, bring the lesson to a close.

A time to pray

<p><i>Sign of the Cross</i></p> <p>Teacher Thank you, God, for giving us this special time to grow closer to you and to one another.</p> <p>We pray that we will become more aware of your presence in our lives and in the world.</p> <p>We pray that we will be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who will help us to live in the way Jesus showed us. We pray together...</p>	<p>All Through our study of Religion, help us, God, to grow in mind, body and spirit, and to deepen our relationship with you and with others.</p> <p>Bless us, O God, as we work together. Guide us through each day. Bless us with new kinds of knowledge and wisdom. May we always live in your way. Amen.</p> <p><i>Sign of the Cross</i></p>
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