

## Ethics, Philosophy and Theology

### Year 8 Knowledge Organisers

#### Term 3: What are the dharmic faiths?



#### Topics Covered

- What are the Dharmic Faiths?
- What is Hinduism?
- How do Hindus express their devotion to God?
- What is puja?
- Pilgrimage
- Caste System
- What is Sikhism?
- How did Sikhism progress?
- What do Sikhs believe?
- Guru Granth Sahib

#### Useful Links:

What is Hinduism?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIBEEuYIWwY&t=7s>

Hindu Gods

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT2jorwmtBk>

What is Dharma?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9\\_i2GYbnA0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9_i2GYbnA0)

What is Sikhism?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-1UAORcX4c>

Guru Granth Sahib

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R98e03In6c>

Gurdwara

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=gurdwara](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=gurdwara)

#### Challenge yourself. Practice questions.

1. Explain 2 similarities between the dharmic faiths
2. Research 2 different Hindu Gods. What are the stories behind them? What do they symbolise?
3. Explain 2 different Sikh beliefs about God
4. What do the items on a puja tray symbolise?
5. How do Sikhs worship in the Gurdwara?
6. Explain 3 differences between the dharmic religions.

Rites of Passage	
5 Ks	In Sikhism, the Five Ks are five items that Guru Gobind Singh commanded Khalsa Sikhs to wear at all times. They are: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (an iron bracelet), Kachera (cotton tie-able undergarment) and Kirpan (an iron dagger)
Amrit ceremony	The Sikh initiation ceremony
Blessing	A prayer asking for divine favour and protection.
Brahman	God or supreme being in Hinduism
Caste	Social grouping in Hindu society that is based on heredity and wealth.
Ghee	Clarified butter used in many religious rites
Granthi	A person of the Sikh religion who is a ceremonial reader of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, which is the Holy Book in Sikhism, often read to worshippers at Sikh temples called a Gurdwara.
Gurdwara	The Sikh place of worship
Guru	In Hinduism and some forms of Buddhism, a personal religious instructor and spiritual guide.
Guru Gobind Singh	The tenth Sikh Guru, who founded the 5 Ks and the one who finalised the Guru Granth Sahib as Sikhism's primary scripture and eternal Guru.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Holy book of Sikhism
Guru Nanak	Founder of Sikhism
Heaven	A place regarded in many religions as the home of God (or the gods) and the angels, and of the good after death.
Hinduism	The main religion of India, which has many gods that are part of the same supreme being. Hinduism has a strict system of social classes and a belief that the soul can be born again after death into a different body.
Karma	In Hinduism and Buddhism, the principle that one's actions determine one's future in this life or in other incarnations.
Khalsa	The Sikh community of men and women is known as the Khalsa which means the 'Community of the Pure'. In order to become a Sikh and join the Khalsa, people need to follow the Five Ks.
Langar	Service to Sikhs e.g. food is given to everyone who attends the Gurdwara and to the homeless.
Moksha	Release from the cycle of birth and rebirth
Mool Mantra	The opening words of the Sikh scripture and their most famous prayer
Pilgrimage	A religious journey taken on to bring yourself closer to God
Puja	Hindu Worship
Puja Tray	Tray which holds everything needed in Hindu worship e.g. incense and ghee
Sanskrit	An ancient language of India
Scriptures	Sacred writings
Sikhism	The Sikh religion. Sikhs believe in one God who guides and protects them. They believe everyone is equal before God. Sikhs believe that your actions are important and you should lead a good life.
Symbolism	A symbol is a mark, sign, or word that indicates, signifies, or is understood as representing an idea, object, or relationship.
Tri-murti	Term meaning "having three forms," refers to the three main Hindu gods: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

## Hindu Gods

Hindus worship one God. They believe that when God wants to communicate with people, he becomes and appears in human form to communicate with us. This has happened 300,000 million times.

Brahman is the Hindu name for God, the supreme being. The Trimurti refers to the three main Hindu gods: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Brahma is the creator god, Vishnu is the preserver and Shiva is the destroyer or the transformer.

Some of the most prominent deities include:

- Brahma: the god responsible for the creation of the world and all living things
- Vishnu: the god that preserves and protects the universe
- Shiva: the god that destroys the universe in order to recreate it
- Devi: the goddess that fights to restore dharma
- Krishna: the god of compassion, tenderness and love
- Lakshmi: the goddess of wealth and purity
- Saraswati: the goddess of learning



## Puja

Hindus can worship at home at a small shrine or at the mandir (temple). In the home a small shrine is set up. This will contain an image of gods or goddesses and a puja tray. This is a tray used in worship. It contains:

- Incense sticks: This symbolises that our prayers go up to heaven as the smoke rises. It also purifies the air around the shrine
- A bell: to tell God you are ready to pray
- Diya lamp which is lit to symbolise God's presence. Light is a symbol of God.
- Kum Kum powder: To make a coloured mark on the worshipper's forehead shows honour to the deity and reminds the worshipper of their devotion throughout the day.
- Food: To make a gift, fruit or other food is placed in the shrine as an offering to the deity



### Sikhism: How did it start?

Sikhism was started by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). He had a religious experience where he was said to have disappeared for 3 days. ON his return he did not initially speak. His first words after this were “There is no Hindu and no Muslim” He later told of meeting God in heaven. The ideas he discussed with God became incorporated into the religion he called Sikhism.

### Sikhism: Main beliefs

- There is only one God
- God is without form, or gender
- Everyone has direct access to God
- Everyone is equal before God
- A good life is lived as part of a community, by living honestly and caring for others
- Empty religious rituals and superstitions have no value

The **Mool Mantra** is the opening phrase of the Guru Granth Sahib and is a famous prayer in Sikhism.

“There is only one God  
Eternal truth is his name  
He is the creator, Without Fear, Without Hate  
Immortal without form  
Beyond birth and death  
Self-existent  
By the Guru’s grace”

### Gurdwara

Sikhs worship in the Gurdwara. Men and women sit separately. At the front is the Guru Granth Sahib. It is regarded as a special living guru that teaches Sikh’s about God. It is treated with the most respect. It is carried into the Gurdwara above the heads of everyone who is there to show its importance. Whilst it is being read it is cleaned by a chauri which is made of white yaks’ hair. The Guru Granth Sahib is read as part of all ceremonies at the Gurdwara.

Langar is important to Sikhs. It is part of their service to God. They give food to all who attend the gurdwara and to the homeless who need it. Anyone is welcome to have the food. There is a kitchen in all gurdwaras. Families take it in turns to provide the langar food.

