



Year 9

Hindu Beliefs 2

Term 4

Knowledge Organiser & Homework Booklet

Name.....

Hindu Beliefs – Knowledge Organiser

Key Words			
Brahman	Brahman is the ultimate reality, a limitless, universal soul or consciousness, beyond human understanding and the source of all life.	Moksha	Freedom from samsara so that the atman joins up with Brahman.
Nirguna Brahman	The idea that God is everywhere but you cannot see him and he no form or shape. In this case the Om or AUM symbol is used to represent God.	Saguna Brahman	The idea that God has form and can be pictured. The different Hindu gods represent the different characteristics of God.
Ahimsa (non-violence)	Hindu virtue based on the concepts of atman and reincarnation.	Brahma	Hindu deity that is part of the Trimurti – The creator (NOT BRAHMAN).
Bhagavan	Most Hindus refer to Brahman as Bhagavan.	Vishnu	Hindu deity that is part of the Trimurti – The preserver.
Dharma	The duty a Hindu should perform in their life.	Shiva	Hindu deity that is part of the Trimurti – The destroyer.
Kama	Enjoying the pleasures of life.	Samsara	The continual cycle of life, death and rebirth.
Artha	Gaining wealth in a lawful way.	Sanskrit	An ancient Indian language.

Key Ideas	
The Divine	<p>Hindus think of the God (the divine) in three ways;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A non-personal God - Existing everywhere - Brahman, Being in the heart of everyone – antaryami <p>In Hinduism, the word 'antaryami' means "inner witness". This presents Brahman as an immanent God. This part of God is representing his knowledge aspect and due to this, it shows God as the centre of most Hindu's meditation. Also, 'antaryami' is all-pervading to Hindus meaning that Brahman has an effect on everything. A personal God – Bhagavan – accessed through the deities living in a spirit world called vaikuntha.</p> <p>This is the idea that Brahman is a supreme being that lives beyond the world and whilst he is beyond the world, he is also personal and understands them well.</p> <p>Hindus think there are 3 very important aspects of God, these are represented by the Tri-murti; Brahma – The creator, Vishnu – The preserver and Shiva – The Destroyer</p>
The Dalits	<p>The Dalits are a large group in Hindu society, making up over 15% of India's population. Dalits are excluded from the caste system, and they have experienced persecution. It is illegal in India to discriminate against anyone in employment, but caste groupings can still keep society unequal and unfair in some ways. A Hindu has to complete their dharma based on their caste but also based on what stage of life they are in. There are four stages of life, called ashramas, and a Hindu goes through all of these in their lifetime. The stage of life a Hindu is in decides what their dharma is.</p>
Varnashrama dharma	<p>These are the duties a Hindu should follow depending on their stage in life and their caste. There are four main traditional castes. The group a Hindu is born into can decide what jobs they may get and what their duties are in life.</p> <p>Some aspects of this concept are controversial because they raise human rights issues about fairness and equality in Hindu societies today. The Rig Veda describes the whole of society as if it were a human body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The teachers and priests are like the head. These are regarded as those closest to achieving moksha. - The warriors and leaders are like the upper body. - The merchants, traders and farmers are like the strong legs. - The manual workers and labourers are like the feet.
Atman	<p>Atman is a Hindu word that means 'soul or spirit'. It refers to the real person inside an individual. It is made of part of the spirit of Brahman, Therefore, it cannot be seen or touched, but it is eternal and everlasting. A key Hindu belief is the idea that when a person dies the atman will move on into the body of another being. This process is called samara. Hindus believe that the atman is about accumulating knowledge. When the atman moves on to another life, it is as if it is letting go of the ego and gaining true knowledge. In the Upanishads, a story used by Hindus to explain the idea of the atman. Just like salt in water, you know it is there but cannot see it. The atman, or part of Brahman, is there even though you cannot see it.</p>
Free will and suffering	<p>Hindus believe that they have free will. This is the idea that they can act and behave how they wish and are free to make their own choices in life. However, Hinduism has guidelines in the form of gurus, holy scriptures and key concepts. These guidelines show Hindus the morally correct ways to act and behave. An example of these guidelines is the concept of karma. A Hindu's actions will result in either good or bad karma, depending on the action. Hindus believe they should use their free will to act in the best possible way in order to receive good karma. Free will is disrupted by the fact that Brahman is beyond time and knows what will happen in the future. In a way your decisions have already been made and cannot be altered. Free will does not exist when you achieve moksha because without suffering there isn't the freedom to make your own choices and learn from mistakes. Caste system goes against free will because you are placed in your cast without choice, and you will stay there till your next life therefore your quality of life is pre-destined and cannot be altered. Going against freedom of choice.</p>

Homework 1: What characterises Hindu Wedding Ceremonies?

Due:

Read the following passage, and make notes of the key points in the bullet-points below the text.

Hindu wedding ceremonies are several days long and they include many rituals, readings, and blessings which are said in Sanskrit. Sometimes the priest is the only one who understands the language being used.

The bride usually wears either a red and white or solid red sari that at least partially covers her hair. The groom wears a tunic called a kafni and hose, called pijamo or a long loincloth, called a dhoti. He may or may not choose to wear a turban. Henna, known as Mehndi is used to decorate the bride's hands and feet.

The wedding takes place outdoors, under a mandap, a type of canopy. The wedding party and guests should not wear black to the ceremony, and all should wear shoes that can easily be removed. That's because anyone who enters must remove his or her shoes. Cushions or mats can provide seating, or less traditional ceremonies may use chairs, but the sacred fire must be under the mandap.

Hindu weddings have two processions. The groom's party arrives first, with the groom carrying the bride's garland. When he arrives, the bride's mother greets him and applies kumkum, a red paste, to his forehead. In return, the groom gives the bride's mother a coconut. The bride's parents escort the groom and the best man to the mandap, and then the flower girls come in, followed by the bride who is being escorted by her maternal uncle. The priest then announces the purpose of the ceremony, naming the bride, groom, and their parents and stating the religious foundation upon which their marriage will be built.

Once the bride and groom are seated under the mandap, the following rituals are performed:

Invocation to Lord Ganesha, Invocation to Saraswati, Prayer for harmony, Bride garlands groom, and vice versa, The Bride's mother and the groom's father wash their children's hands and feet, give them flowers, and apply kumkum, The bride's parents announce their approval of the wedding, The groom says his vows, and The bride says her vows.

The priest then says "A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of holiness and of perfection and of peace. In these rings it is the symbol of unity, in which your lives are now joined in one unbroken circle, in which, wherever you go, you will always return to one another and to your togetherness." (Modern version/translation).

The bride and groom exchange rings, The priest puts the sacred rope, called varamala, around the bride and groom's necks which officially marries them, The couple moves to sit side by side and the Bride's father joins their hands, The bride and groom cup their joined hands, into which the Bride's brother pours rice, which the couple then pours into the fire, The couple walks around the fire four times, switching positions with each turn.

While they are walking around the fire, the priest says a prayer for each turn. The prayers are usually for happiness, health, and long life. The bride and groom sit down, the groom presents a gift to the bride's brother, and the priest confirms the marriage with the Seven Steps.

Key Points:

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Homework 2: What are the key aspects of each member of the Hindu Trimurti? Due:

Read the following passage, and make notes of the key points in the bullet-points below the text.

God is called BRAHMAN in the Hindu religion. He may take on the form of anything in the world, usually a god or goddess, and each god or goddess has its own personality and appearance. Brahman comes in the popular form of three gods. This idea or concept is called TRIMURTI. They work together in a never ending pattern.

BRAHMAN		
BRAHMA	VISHNU	SHIVA
		
CREATOR	PRESERVER	DESTROYER
ONE GOD – MANY FORMS		

Brahma



Brahma is the least worshipped of the three main gods. He has four heads and he recites the Vedas continually. He is the creator.

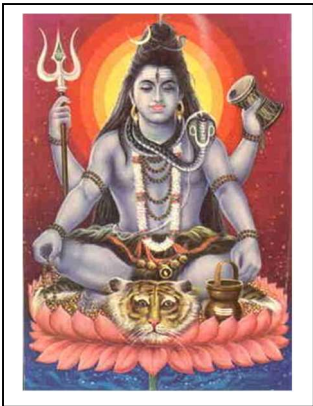
Vishnu is worshipped under several names. This is because he has different appearances. Hindus believe that when there is a time of danger for the earth, Vishnu comes to protect it. They believe he has come to the earth in 9 bodies. The most famous are Krishna and Rama.

Vishnu



Shiva

Shiva is worshipped by about a quarter of all Hindus. He is the god who destroys so he controls death (and even life). Although he can be frightening he is also thought of being kind and easy to



Depending on where one lives in India and the way they are brought up, Hindu's will have a special image of their version of God that they worship.

Not all Hindus believe that these deities are aspects of the one god, but rather that they ARE their own characters and are less than the real one god.

The most popular idea of god is to worship him as Vishnu.

Key Points:

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