KS2 Compulsory Unit: Being Human (Hinduism)

Suggestions for Teaching and Learning By <u>Gillian Georgiou</u>, Diocesan RE Adviser



The questions we might ask:

- > How do Hindus reflect their faith in the way they live?
- > What is karma and how does it drive the cycle of samsara?
- > How might a Hindu seek to achieve moksha?
- How do beliefs impact on action: expectations of behaviour, ways in which people act, examples of contemporary individuals?

The ideas we might explore

- Recap of key beliefs (see KS2 Compulsory Unit: God Hinduism): **Brahman**, the **Trimurti**, samsara, atman, karma, moksha, dharma
- The key importance of *dharma* (duty) and the way in which it relates to beliefs about *samsara*, the *atman* and *moksha*; duty to self, *Brahman* (and the deities as expressions of what Brahman is like), fellow human beings, other living beings (things with an *atman*), society
- Ways in which a Hindu may try and fulfil their *dharma* (duty): carrying out good actions (*karma*) and avoiding bad actions (*karma*)
- *Ahimsa* the principle of non-violence; the way in which this relates to beliefs about *ahimsa, samsara, moksha* and *karma*; vegetarianism in Hinduism
- The role of yoga, meditation and renunciation in helping Hindus focus on **Brahman** and their **dharma**; **sadhus** and **sadhvi** (men and women who have renounced worldly life)
- *Satsang* (togetherness) the importance of the family, the community and society in thinking about one's *dharma* (duty)
- Examples of Hindus and the way they lived their lives, e.g. Mahatma Gandhi (guided by the principle of *ahimsa*), A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and his connection with the Hare Krishna movement (a form of Hinduism focused on Krishna, one of the *avatars* of Vishnu) and Bhaktivedanta Manor in Hertfordshire; Dev Patel, a British actor, and his involvement in depictions of India and Hinduism, e.g. *Slumdog*

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Millionaire; Meera Syal, a British comedian, and her depictions of Hindu family life and culture through her comedy and TV shows, e.g. *The Kumars at No.42* and *Goodness Gracious Me*

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What is RE?	Football World Cup – how could we look at this in terms of believing, living and thinking?
Believing, Living, Thinking	Believing: tattoo guy (world cup winners) – what was the evidence for him to believe they would win? Clips of commentary, examples of Tweets (disbelief and hope), history of the England football team and 1966 and 1996
	Living : what did people do to show their belief in the England football team? Promotions in shops, Three Lions song being rereleased, flags, merchandise, watched the matches, travelled to Russia, etc.
	Thinking: should you support the England football team if the majority of evidence suggests they won't win? Arguments for and against, showing evidence of the process of reasoning.

Introduction to Hinduism	Believing
Key Beliefs – the Ultimate	What is God like? Mind map or artwork – emphasis the extent to which pupils relate human qualities to God
Reality	Brahman (salt and water – life force in all things, not personal God like in other religions, but impersonal) Samsara (the cycle of life – example of an apple – tree cutting, fresh fruit, rotten apple) – connect with the Trimurti Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva (the Trimurti) – a way of trying to better understand Brahman and worship him (cf. 99 Names of Allah)
	Start to build a classroom display/padlet including key vocab and key concepts

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Introduction to Hinduism	Believing and Living
Key Beliefs – human beings	Atman, samsara and moksha (atman = the soul – the bit of Brahman in all living things; samsara is the life cycle it is on; moksha is the ultimate goal – to break free of the life cycle, samsara)
	Example of a sportsperson who had a 9 to 5 job until they were able to take up their sport full-time – the idea of being stuck in one thing and breaking free to do something totally different.
	Dharma (duty, every person has their own duty to fulfil; if they fulfil it, they move close to moksha) Karma (actions – good actions, good karma, help you fulfil your dharma and get closer to moksha; bad actions, bad karma, prevent you from fulfilling your dharma and move you further away from moksha)
	Thinking: What are your duties? What actions help you carry them out? What happens if you don't do them? Etc. (Philosophers' café – different stimulus questions on different tables; pupils move around the tables and discuss the different questions, recording answers – café, so tea and cake provided!)
	Add to the classroom display/padlet with key vocab and key concepts

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Dharma	Believing
	Revisit concept of dharma and how it relates to the cycle of life (samsara) and the concept of karma (action)
	Board games – samsara snakes and ladders
	Case study: the story of Rama and Sita in the Ramayana
	Access story through text and video – retell the story through writing/roleplay/iMovie/hot seat, etc.
	Discussion: how does the story relate to the concept of dharma ?
	Living
	Ethical choices in Hinduism:
	http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/poverty/hinduismrev2.shtml
	Case studies – how would you act? How might a Christian act? How might a Muslim act?
	Thinking:
	How does the idea of 'good' relate to the concept of dharma in Hinduism? ('Good' means different things to different
	people.)
	Add to classroom display/padlet with key vocab and key concepts

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Ahimsa	Violence: mind-map – different kinds of violence (physical, verbal, emotional, etc.), impact of violence (on individual, community, etc.)
	Believing: Introduce the concept of ahimsa (principle of non-violence) – possibly mention Mahatma Gandhi
	Story of Krishna (avatar of Vishnu) as a cowherd (video/text, etc.) – how does this relate to beliefs about how Hindus treat animals and the natural world?
	Living: Make your way to Moksha: a game show with teams, musical theme, costumes, etc. – teams have to give a reason why they've made that choice, how it relates to ahimsa and dharma
	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/hinduethics/animal.shtml http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/environment/histewardshiprev1.shtml
	Thinking: How does ahimsa relate to dharma? How does this relate to samsara and moksha?
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Satsang	What is your duty? Who helps you fulfil it? Create a web of support
	Believing: Satsang – the concept of togetherness, the idea that community/family/society is important in helping you fulfil your dharma
	Living: Yoga as an individual or communal activity that helps people focus on their spiritual discipline, which is one form of fulfilling your religious duty (dharma) – carry out some basic yoga practices (perhaps some individual pupils and a larger group of pupils). Reflect on impact – how might doing this communally be different? How might this be helpful?
	Thinking: Debate – "We're better together." Arguments for and against <u>from Hinduism</u>
	Add to classroom display/padlet with key vocab and key concepts

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