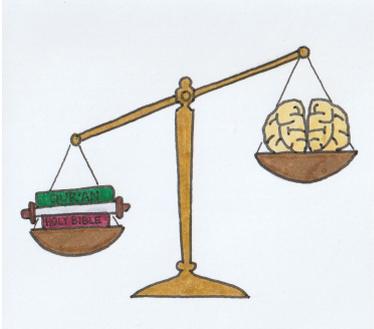


<h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">A</h1>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">ATHEISM</h1>	<p><b>What's it all about? Reasons to reject the whole idea of God</b></p> <p>This clip introduces atheist ideas. Note that the key idea of an atheist is: 'I believe there is no God'. Usually with this the atheist rejects belief in afterlife, heaven, hell, reincarnation, ghosts or angels. But is atheism a belief? Well, if you agree that proof for or against God on either side of the equation is impossible, then it would be over-claiming to say 'I know there is no god'. Maybe better to stick with 'I believe there is no god.'</p> <p>Atheism shouldn't be seen as a negative thing: Humanists, for example, emphasise kindness, love, the beauty of art and of the earth. Morals don't need to depend on religion: humans can figure out what is right and wrong, good and bad, for ourselves. The same with our sense of meaning: Humanists say 'we may not believe in god, but life is rich, and we believe in humanity.'</p> <p><i>Do note that in under three minutes this little clip raises many issues that need more classroom exploration, and students need time to explore ideas in more depth. Particularly here, Humanism is introduced, but there are many atheists who are not 'capital 'H' Humanists'.</i></p>								
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Why is Atheism included in a series about Religious Education? Is that a good thing?</p>										
<p>Which religions and beliefs?</p> <p>Atheism: atheists are people who believe that God is unproven, and enormously unlikely or impossible.</p> <p>Clip available here: <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks3-a-is-for-atheism/zdkcwty">www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks3-a-is-for-atheism/zdkcwty</a></p>	<p><b>Key Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What does the word 'Atheist' mean?</li> <li>▪ Why study atheism in RE?</li> <li>▪ Are the arguments between atheists and those who believe in God endless, or can they be solved?</li> <li>▪ Is an atheist a 'believer' too? A person who believes there is no god?</li> <li>▪ How do atheists decide questions about right and wrong and the meaning of life?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Classroom or homework task:</b></p> <p>Here are eight reasons for believing in god or not. Sort them first: which point away from belief in god? Then rank them: which are good reasons to be an atheist?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="687 1104 1487 1688"> <tr> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'The world is full of suffering and pain, which hurts innocent people.'</td> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'Life is short: 80+ years fly by. No one can be sure of anything after death.'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'The world is beautiful, intricate, and nearly perfect for human life.'</td> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'Religions claim to be about love and peace, but often practise hate and war.'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'For two centuries, things that used to look like miracles have been scientifically explained.'</td> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'Humanity is capable of huge goodness and also of massive evil. Too random for a god to make!'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'Human psychology sometimes uses religion to prop up our sense of failure or our fear of death.'</td> <td style="color: red; text-align: center;">'Life is a mystery: there's loads we cannot explain about it. That's awesome.'</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Suggested outcomes: students can...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give an informed account of the meaning of atheism</li> <li>▪ Give reasons for their views about whether gods and goddesses can be proved.</li> <li>▪ Handle information and ideas effectively by explaining both their own views and others' ideas about evidence for and against god.</li> </ul>	'The world is full of suffering and pain, which hurts innocent people.'	'Life is short: 80+ years fly by. No one can be sure of anything after death.'	'The world is beautiful, intricate, and nearly perfect for human life.'	'Religions claim to be about love and peace, but often practise hate and war.'	'For two centuries, things that used to look like miracles have been scientifically explained.'	'Humanity is capable of huge goodness and also of massive evil. Too random for a god to make!'	'Human psychology sometimes uses religion to prop up our sense of failure or our fear of death.'	'Life is a mystery: there's loads we cannot explain about it. That's awesome.'
'The world is full of suffering and pain, which hurts innocent people.'	'Life is short: 80+ years fly by. No one can be sure of anything after death.'									
'The world is beautiful, intricate, and nearly perfect for human life.'	'Religions claim to be about love and peace, but often practise hate and war.'									
'For two centuries, things that used to look like miracles have been scientifically explained.'	'Humanity is capable of huge goodness and also of massive evil. Too random for a god to make!'									
'Human psychology sometimes uses religion to prop up our sense of failure or our fear of death.'	'Life is a mystery: there's loads we cannot explain about it. That's awesome.'									

## A is for Atheism

Use the 8 reasons in the table to fill in the two columns below, adding a reason of your own to each side.

Definition of an atheist:

“A person who believes there is no god.”

Reasons to be an atheist:

1

2

3

4

5

Reasons to believe in God

1

2

3

4

5

Here are some beliefs which many people who are not religious hold to. Do you agree with them? Add your comments below each one.

A. ‘I believe in humanity’

B. ‘I believe everything happens for a reason’

C. ‘I believe in love’

D. ‘I believe in science’

E. ‘I believe that there is no such thing as life after death’

Humanists are usually atheists as well (but some are agnostic.) Humanism says we can be good without God, and should live for the one life we have. Humanism says rationality, freedom for the individual and doing to others what we would like them to do for us are all good.

Visit the website for more info:

[www.understandinghumanism.org.uk](http://www.understandinghumanism.org.uk)

In the box, give your own views about Humanism:

Humanism: my views and reasons.