

UNCERTAINTY



When faced with the biggest mysteries of the universe, it may make sense to say, 'I don't know'. A person who is a 'maybe' about God is called an 'agnostic'. Very common in the UK.

Which religions and beliefs?

Agnosticism

Key Questions

- Is it good to be 100% certain about everything? Why or why not?
- What is an agnostic?
- How do the agnostics approach life?
- Why might it be good to stop short of claiming 100% certainty about the biggest mysteries of life?

Clip available here:

www.bbc.co.uk/ teach/class-clipsvideo/religiouseducation-ks3-a-z-ofreligion-and-beliefs-uis-for-uncertainty/ z7gv47h

What's it all about? Are we dreaming? What about doubt?

Theology and religious study is a study of faith, not certainty. So 'spiritual convictions', based on a leap of faith, are all we have. Maths maybe nice and provable but it doesn't tell you the meaning of life, love, laughter and music, as spiritual convictions can.

Since no religion has the whole truth, for certain, but all offer something to believe in, it may explain why religions often have lots of small variations of belief inside them. An agnostic is a 'don't know' when it comes to religious questions. Atheists and religious people may share certainty: they are sure of their position. But agnosticism is for those who see the rationality of uncertainty. Maybe that is actually a majority in some cultures... Who do you know who is 100% sure of their views, even when they are thinking about the meaning of life, the origins of humanity of the destiny of the world? Is it wise to be agnostic, and make your belief proportionate to the evidence?

Classroom or homework task: 4 questions answered

Divide a page into 4 quarters for your answers to these questions after you have watched the clip. Use and consider ideas from the clip, from your own mind and from other study.

Some say trust in God is good, because we have no proof. Others say 'if you can't prove it, I think it is rubbish'. What do you say?

Why?

What is an agnostic?
How is an agnostic different from an atheist?

"Being agnostic is a cop out.
You have to decide how to
live, for God or for the
random nothingness of
purpose. Take a leap of
faith, don't sit on the
fence." Do you agree?

"Being agnostic makes total sense. There is no proof of God, for or against. The evidence points both ways. Maybe a beautiful world is created, but look at the evil as well. Do you agree?

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of the meaning of agnosticism
- Give reasons for their views about whether certainty about religious and belief questions is good.
- Develop an argument for or against agnosticism.

When you think about the question: is God real? How certain are you about your answer? Write a figure in the box.	%
What is an agnostic? How is an agnostic different from a	n atheist?
"Being agnostic makes total sense, proof of God, for or against. Evidence ways. Maybe a beautiful world is creat the evil as well." Do you agree?	e points both
Why might it be good to stop short of claiming 100% certainty about the biggest mysteries of life?	
My view about being agnostic is:	
My main arguments for this view are:	
	question: is God real? How certain are you about your answer? Write a figure in the box. What is an agnostic? How is an agnostic different from a growth of the second of God, for or against. Evidence ways. Maybe a beautiful world is creat the evil as well." Do you agree?