

RESOURCE 2.4

# Features of religion: how important are they?

Below is a selection of features commonly found in a range of religions and worldviews. When you reflect on your life, whether religious or not, how important are these to you?

|  | Not part of my tradition/worldview | 0                    | 1                      | 2         | 3              | 4                   |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------------|
|  |                                    | Not important at all | A little bit important | Important | Very important | Centrally important |
| 1. A guide to living, day to day   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 2. A path of obedience to follow   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 3. Guidance on values, right and wrong   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 4. Desire for justice/equality   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 5. Motivation to make the world better   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 6. Belief in God or the Divine or a higher power   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 7. Belief in life after death  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 8. Belief in karma and reincarnation/rebirth   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 9. Belief in spirits/angels/jinn etc.  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 10. Written sources of wisdom/authority  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 11. A clear creed or declaration of faith or belief  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 12. Intellectual support for my worldview  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 13. A path to personal salvation/rescue/release from problems and misfortune in this world |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 14. Personal prayer/reflection/meditation etc.   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 15. Community prayer/reflection/meditation etc.  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 16. Personal rituals   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 17. Family rituals   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 18. Community rituals  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 19. Festival celebrations  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 20. Celebrating important stages of life   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 21. Being part of a community  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 22. Compassion   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 23. Personal happiness   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 24. A sense of identity  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 25. Something that gives meaning and purpose to my life                                    |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 26. A deep connection to the Earth and all living creatures                                |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 27. A sense of the presence of God/the Divine/a higher power, in everyday life             |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 28. Spiritual experiences  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 29. Emotional support through life's challenges  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 30. A story or stories that inspire and guide  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 31. A tradition that links me to my community, culture, place and history                  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 32. Religious, spiritual or community leaders (e.g. priest, imam)                          |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 33. Practical support through life's challenges  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 34. Saint/guru to follow   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 35. Place(s) of power (e.g. sacred/significant)  |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |
| 36. Place(s) of pilgrimage   |                                    |                      |                        |           |                |                     |

What is your religion/worldview? How would you describe its role in your life? Is there anything missing from the above list?

Source: S. Pett ed. (2022) *Challenging Knowledge in RE: Studying Religion* (RE Today)