



Religion	Buddhism (Buddhist Priory)
Denomination	Soto Zen
Question answered:	In what ways do science, belief and religion interact and what difference might this make? (KS3 Q1)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Is it helpful that scientific advances and discoveries challenge people's beliefs? Different interpretations of scientific information Different interpretations of Buddhist scripture and understanding. How does meditation help Buddhists reach decisions?
Key teaching points:	Science and religions may be considered opposites Science and religion can be seen as interdisciplinary The link between science, belief and religion can be subjective (between religions as well as within a religion.
Prior knowledge:	Science originated from religion. Many scientific discoveries and education started with religion. The practice and reason for meditation in Buddhism and how it helps followers

Core Vocabulary:			
Openness	Science	Tolerance	vaccination
Meditation			

Summary of answers:
<p>Speaker 1: Religion and belief cannot escape the facts of life. Scientists are saying, doing or coming up with different things, such as the nuclear bomb, but Buddhists don't accept everything that is said. A contemporary example would be the covid vaccination: it is based in scientific experiments and people have a choice whether to have it or not. This speaker considered the evidence and chose to have the vaccination. Another key point is faith, and he says 'faith' rather than 'belief', in this instance. It is common for people to say, 'if you can prove to me that mediation worked, then I will have a go at it.' They want to be certain, they want to know the end result before they start. It doesn't work that way round. Science does not prove faith and he would say that categorically. But it also doesn't stand against science either. He knows meditation works by doing it and without referring to any scientist. It is important to see it that way round and not try to prove faith through fact; experience it for oneself is the key– do it and watch it blossom like a lotus. Live life as fully as possible and live alongside science when it is good to do so.</p> <p>Speaker 2: She has lived most of my life through her intellect and wouldn't think a lot about this question from the point of view of religious practice – she tries not to practice through her intellect too much. She now takes things as they come and if there is a point when she sees those three things (science, belief and religion) are interacting or causing some kind of conflict, she would meditate. The Buddha preached openness and tolerance so she would consider what that's showing at the time, through openness and tolerance and try to find a way through any potential conflicts.</p>



Next Steps:

Students can make a comparison of different religions views of science and origins of the universe.

They could also explore whether different denominations within Buddhism hold different beliefs in science and religion.

They can explore different interpretations of Scripture and Science

Pupils can carry out an investigation into why people think science and religion are considered to be in conflict rather than harmony.