

RE Knowledge Organiser

'Why do Hindus want to be good?'

Hindu ways of life

Hinduism is a religion that has fused many different traditions and practices. There is no one way to be a Hindu. In saying this, all Hindus believe in four core beliefs: dharma (righteousness), kama (desire), artha (wealth) and moksha (liberation). Throughout their lives, Hindus attempt to behave in a way that provides good karma in this life and the next. In this way, Hinduism is not just a religion; it is a culture, a code of behaviour and a way of life.

Four stages of life

Hindus believe that there are four main stages of a person's life: Brahmacharya (the student – 0-25), which focuses on education, learning new things and gaining knowledge; Grihastha (the householder – 25-48), in which the person is getting married, having children and maintaining a household by providing food, shelter and education for children; Vanaprastha (the retirement; 48-75) in which the person has passed over their duties and responsibilities to the next generation and are 'winding down.' The last stage is known as 'Sannyasa' and consists of shunning the material objects in life and focusing on a peaceful and spiritual life instead. This stage of life can be taken at anytime. Although these four stages of life originate from medieval scripture, Hindus still identify with their importance and value them for fulfilment, happiness and spiritual liberation.



How might the belief in Karma and Samsara effect people's actions in life?

Set yourself a target! By the end of this topic, what do you want to achieve?

Did you achieve your target? Yes / no

What can the story of 'the man in the well' teach us?

Key Vocabulary

Samsara	The cycle of death and rebirth that Hindus believe in.
Dharma	The spiritual law for human beings. It is the way of goodness, truth and duty.
Sanatan Dharma	The eternal and absolute set of duties that every Hindu must practice no matter class, sect or caste.
Reincarnation	The belief that when your body dies, your soul does not die, it moves on to another body.
Karma	Actions, either good or bad that affect rebirth.
Moksha	The end of the rebirth cycle.
Puja	The act of worship in Hinduism.