

1. Key Words

Brahman - The Hindu name for God or Supreme Being.

Bhagavan - The Supreme Being existing in the world of spirits and deities.

Om or Aum – The sound and symbol of Brahman.



Antaryami - The Supreme Being existing within the heart of all living beings.

Trimurti - the three main Hindu deities or aspects of God.

Vedas - the earliest Hindu scriptures.

Mala - a string of beads, used to help count chanted mantras during meditation.

Avatars – The ten animal or human forms in which Vishnu appears on earth.

Ascetics- people who live austere and simple lives.

Reincarnation- being born again into a new body.

Cosmology- ideas about the universe.

Enlightenment- the gaining of true knowledge about God or self, usually through meditation and self-discipline.

Tri-guna- the three qualities or gunas- goodness, passion and ignorance.

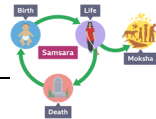
Atman- a person's inner self; the living force in all of nature.

Transmigration- the movement of the atman from one body to another.

2. Ideas about the nature of God



Brahman is the one true ultimate being, however, there are many deities. These deities are different aspects of Brahman and shows Hindus a part of what Brahman is like. The **Trimurti** are the most significant forms of Brahman: **Brahma** the creator-images, or murtis, of Brahma have four heads, seeing in all directions at once and symbolising the four Vedas. Brahma's four arms carry symbols of power – a goblet, a bow, a sceptre and the Vedas. In Hindu creation stories, Brahma brings the universe into being. **Vishnu** the preserver- Murtis of Vishnu express splendour and power. His four arms carry symbols of power – a discus, a lotus flower, a conch shell and a mace. Vishnu, god of light and enlightenment, has appeared on Earth through avatars. **Shiva** the destroyer He is often pictured dancing and with four arms. He holds a drum and a flame, and he points to his dancing feet with one hand and holds in the other hand a pen, meaning 'fear not'. His necklace of cobra snakes is another sign of power.



5. Cycle of birth and death

Hindus believe in reincarnation, and they call this process **samsara**-birth, death and incarnation. This occurs repeatedly, the actions of a person determine their incarnation (ie how they will be reborn) in the next.

Moksha- The ultimate goal in life is to reach freedom from the cycle of samsara. If they manage to overcome ignorance and desire, they may achieve moksha when they die and therefore reach the end of the cycle of samsara. **Karma** is the belief that all actions have a reaction. Good actions have positive karma and negative actions have negative karma. Hindus' belief in karma means they believe that their good actions will allow them to have a good mortal life.

3. Ideas about existence

Prakriti (a creative or natural force) is made up of three gunas. These are: **sattva** – a state of harmony (also known as goodness) **rajas** – a state of energy, action, change and movement (also known as passion) **tamas** – darkness (also known as ignorance) Together, these are known as the **Triguna**- each guna is controlled by one of the three main deities Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva.

Maya is focused on the ideas of illusion and mysticism and our human understanding of the world around us – specifically, the idea that reality is an illusion, but that God allows people to believe it is real through magic. Four stages that creation - **yugas** (four yugas in one cycle): Satya Yuga; Treta Yuga; Dwapara Yuga; Kali Yuga. Currently, we are living the Kali Yuga. Humankind becomes better or worse physically, mentally and spiritually, depending on the actions of each generation.

4. Atman: -

'eternal self' and is a very important concept in Hinduism. When a Hindu refers to the atman, they are referring to the immortal part of their self. This part of an individual is the part of them that will exist for eternity. Hinduism teaches that Brahman is part of all living things. Brahman is all creation and an unchanging ultimate reality:

Thus does the man who desires [stays in the cycle of samsara]. But as to the man who does not desire – who is without desire, who is freed from desire, whose desire is satisfied, whose only object of desire is the Self – his organs do not depart. Being Brahman, he merges in Brahman.

— Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 4.4.3–6
Once a person has achieved moksha, the cycle of samsara ends and many Hindus believe that they become Brahman. It is believed that, at this point, the person 'merges in Brahman'.

6. Beliefs about the nature of human life. Dharma-

This is related to a person's true purpose and is concerned with a person's duty and the actions the person takes. Each Hindu believes that they have their own personal dharma. Ultimately, this is about leading a righteous life .

Kama-This Sanskrit word means love, desire and pleasure. It is a very practical part of Hindus' aims in life. As Hinduism is a very practical religion, it is widely accepted that many Hindus attempt to achieve kama in their lives with their partners. This sexual aspect of kama is considered to be a natural part of human instinct and also produces children. **Artha**- Artha means prosperity. To Hindus this means the pursuit of wealth. Only a few people do not require material wealth. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that Hindus attain material wealth however, they must not become attached to this wealth.

1. Key Words 🔑

Evil - That which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong.

Corporal punishment – punishment of an offender by causing them physical pain- now illegal in the UK.

Sanctity of life - . Human life is sacred because it is God given

Community service - a way of punishing offenders by making them do unpaid work in the community.

Morality - Principles and standards determining which actions are right or wrong.

Punishment - A penalty given to someone for a crime or wrong they have done.

Conscience – An inner feeling of right and wrong.

Death penalty- capital punishment; a punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for crimes committed.

Forgiveness- showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

2. Causes of crime-Upbringing The environment a person is brought up in, the morals of the family/ friends/ neighbourhood, if a person is surrounded by crimes or criminal activity and the social and financial status of the family .**Mental illness** – The state of mind of a person may lead them into crime. Serious psychological issues with no understanding of right or wrong; might feel no guilt or compassion for others; might enjoy hurting others; might have educational learning issues and be easily led into crime; or are victims of some event which has disturbed their minds, for example, depression or an abusive upbringing. **Addiction** – An addiction, for example, to alcohol, drugs, sex or money which leads them into crime to feed their habit or their cravings. They may even be addicted to crime, for example, stealing. **Poverty** – No other alternative way to survive. They may have no money, no job or cannot provide for themselves or their children. **Greedy/hate** - . We always want more so inherently we are greedy. People do bad things to us so hate leads us to take revenge and commit crimes. **Opposition to existing laws** Some crimes are committed in protest about laws that exist that are either unfair or for the benefit of a select few in society. Sometimes laws have to be broken to get laws to be changed. Religious people often feel a duty to oppose unjust laws.

5. Causing suffering to others.

Christians-Jesus taught that we should love one another. He taught that Christians should not retaliate *'turn to him the other cheek'* Matthew. If we do cause suffering, we should heal the wrong.

Hinduism-It is wrong to cause suffering to others, will result in bad karma. Where suffering is found, compassion should be shown. Suffering will occur but can be more easily borne through meditation, developing wisdom, service to God

3. Aims of punishment

Retribution: revenge/ getting even with person who committed crime.

Deterrence: to put someone off from committing the crime - to deter. **Reformation:** to rehabilitate the offender to change their behaviour. **Reparation:** repairing the damage done through the crime **Vindication:** shows that the law should be followed / upheld

Protection: protecting society from the criminal

Religious views

'take life for life, eye for eye' Exodus **†**
'Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath.' Romans

'An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.' Attributed to Gandhi
The Laws of Manu- sequence of punishments: admonition; censure; a fine; physical punishment including some form of restraint, corporal and capital punishment **ॐ**

4. Religious teachings:

Forgiveness



Christianity

-Forgiveness is a prominent theme. - Evident in teachings & life of Jesus - 'Do not judge & you won't be judged' - The Lord's prayer asks for forgiveness. -Jesus taught his followers to forgive 70x7 times. -Beatitudes also teaches 'blessed are the merciful, they will be shown mercy'



Hinduism

-[Forgiveness is] the one supreme peace. Mahabharata
-[Forgiveness is] a Divine characteristic. Bhagavad Gita
-It is not a duty to blame and punish people; that will happen anyway under the law of karma.
-Murder and rape are thought naturally unforgivable in some Hindu texts.

6. The death penalty

Some arguments FOR capital punishment • **†** An *'eye for an eye, life for a life'* means that murderers should pay with their life. • It is a deterrent; therefore it puts people off committing horrendous crimes. • It brings justice for the victims and their families. • Life sentences do not mean life; murderers walk free on average after sixteen years. • It is a waste of resources housing criminals for their entire life. • This is the only way to totally protect society from the worst murderer who it is believed cannot be reformed. **ॐ** Laws of Manu. **Some arguments AGAINST capital punishment** • Retribution is uncivilised; two wrongs do not make a right. • It is a contradiction to condemn murder and then execute (kill) a murderer. • Most murders are done on the spur of the moment, so capital punishment would not deter. • *'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked,'* Ezekiel • Legal systems can fail and innocent people can be executed. • All life is sacred and murderers should be given the chance to reform. **ॐ** It is inhumane and degrading to put anyone through the mental torture of death row. **ॐ** *'restore to life again the man who hath committed sin'* Rig Veda