

Supporters of Secularism – Freud

1	Wish fulfilment	Religion is a reflection of our subconscious mind
2	Infantile?	A child represses sexual feelings and the need for a father figure is projected as God
3	Control	Religion stems out of our need to make sense of the events in our lives and comfort
4	Comfort	Religious ritual is comforting and obsessional

Supporters of Secularism – Dawkins

1	Evolution	Religious beliefs about creation have been shown to be wrong by evolution. Survival happens through genetics, not divine creation. Religion creates a 'God of the gaps'
2	Survival	Religious beliefs help survival as they unite a community. Religion had evolutionary benefit
3	Evil	Religion is the root of evil in society. Terrorism and conflict come about from religion and cause differences

Religion in public life

1	Humanism	Humans can live positive lives without religion and believe that Christianity should have no impact on public life.
2	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should there be faith schools? Should religion have a say on the curriculum? Should religion be taught as truth?
3	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should religious leaders have political influence? Should bishops sit in the house of lords? The US and France have removed all religious influence in public life.
4	Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK's culture and history is religious – should churches be places of historical interest for tourists or only for worshippers? Many bank holidays are Christian in the UK
5	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can workplaces discriminate and only select religious people (e.g. in faith schools?) Can people wear religious symbols to work if they have a uniform? Should religions get

A02 Discussion

- Are spiritual values human values
- Does Christianity cause major social and emotional problems?
- Is secularism a special opportunity for Christianity to develop?
 - Does Christianity contribute to society's culture?
 - Should religion be part of public or just private life?

Key Vocabulary

Humanism	A movement that values science, morality and absence of an afterlife.
Illusion	Faulty interpretation of an experience
Infantile	Childish –Freud
Neurosis	A mental illness with symptoms like stress, anxiety and obsessive behaviour
Repressive	Restraint on freedom
Secular	Non religious
Secularism	Religious beliefs and institutions should not affect how the State is run; all belief systems should be treated equally
Secularisation	The process of making a society secular by removing the influence of religious institution

This DCT unit explores the role of religion in modern British society. Does religion deserve influence and recognition in public life or should it be totally private? This unit links to the pluralism units and Liberation Theology.



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4	Comfort	

Supporters of Secularism – Dawkins

1	Evolution	
2	Survival	
3	Evil	

Religion in public life

1	Humanism	
2		
3	Education	
4		
5	Government	
6		
7	Culture	
8		
9	Conflict	
10		

Key Vocabulary

Humanism

Illusion

Infantile

Neurosis

Repressive

Secular

Secularism

Secularisation

