

Religiosity refers to the extent to which someone sees themselves as religious.

Fundamentalism appeal to tradition - they seek return to the basics or fundamentals of their faith.

Secularisation means the decrease in power that religion has in society.

Ideology means a set of ideas, values and beliefs that provide a means of interpreting the world.

Types of Religion

Theistic Beliefs	
New Age Movements	
Animism	
Totemism	

5 features of religion

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Definitions of Religion

Substantive Definition

Outline:

Evaluation: Ethnocentric as it focuses on western religions. Doesn't have room for belief systems which perform similar functions as religion but do not have a supernatural god.

Functional Definitions

Outline:

Evaluation:

Constructionist Definition

Outline:

Evaluation:

Belief Systems

Religion as closed belief system

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Religion as an open belief system

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Science as a closed belief system

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Science as an open belief system

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Polanyi – Self Sustaining Beliefs

1	
2	
3	

Case Study: Azande & Witchcraft

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Ideology

A **belief** system is the set of stories and realities about the world that a person believes to be true. It includes religious **beliefs**, morals and what one defines as right or wrong. **Ideologies** refer to the political, social and economic ideas that help to define a particular group of people.

Marxism

Thinker: Gramsci, Marx, Althusser

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Postmodernism / Pluralism

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Feminism

Thinker: Oakley

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Mannheim

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Core Principals of Science	
1	Science is the pursuit of facts
2	It is objective
3	Studies the impact of cause and effect based on reliable data.

Paradigms

Falsification

Merton: CUDOS norms	
C	Communism – scientific knowledge should be shared with the community and not kept secret or private.
U	Universalism – all scientists are regarded as equal so it should be there work that is challenged not them personally.
D	Disinterestedness – scientists should be committed to truth and publish their findings honestly. There should be no fraud or subjective bias.
OS	Organised Scepticism – All knowledge within science should be challenged and scrutiny should be encouraged.

Sociology of Scientific Knowledge

Interpretivism	Woolgar – Little Green Men
Marxism	
Feminism	
Postmodernism	

Aldridge: Transitions from Religious to Scientific Explanations.

Theological Stage	
Metaphysical Stage	
Scientific Stage	

Impact of Science on Religion

Religion is a vital institution for maintaining social cohesion and solidarity.

Durkheim

The Sacred &
The Profane

Totemism

Collective
Conscious

Cognitive
Functions

Parsons

Values and Meanings

Bellah

Civil Religion

Malinowski

Psychological Functions

Evaluation

The main function of religion is to help maintain the ruling classes power.

Engles argues that socialism and Christianity have similar features. For example they are both ideologies that target the poor and offer a better life. The key difference is that Christianity offers salvation in an after life where as socialism offers it in this life.

Religion as an ideology

Legitimizes inequality	
Legitimizes power of the ruling class	
'Spiritual Gin' Lenin	

Religion as a product of alienation

Alienation means the lack of power, control and fulfilment experienced by workers in capitalist societies which the means of producing goods are privately owned and controlled

Suffering as a test of faith	
Existential Security	
Promises of an after life	

Religion as the opium of the masses

By 'Opium of the masses', Marx meant that religion dulls the pain or the oppression they face by offers a temporary high through promises of a better afterlife in order to distracted them from their exploitation, in a similar way to the drug opium.

3 ways that religion is like opium

1	
2	
3	

Evaluation

Religion is a source of social change

Dual Nature of Religion

Bloch

Gramsci

Evaluation

Neo-Marxism agree with Marxism that religion can exploit the poor

Neo-Marxism criticises Marxism for failing to see how religion can be a cause of social change and develop class consciousness.

Religion as a force for social change

Maduro

Liberation Theology

Case Study: Father Camillo Torres

The main function of religion is maintain patriarchy and oppress women.

Stark and Bainbridge

Women are more likely to join sects and cults because...

	Outline & Thinker	Examples	Evaluation
Maintain Patriarchy	Mary Daly		Woodhead
Second Class Believers	Simone De Beauvoir	Jean Holm	
Stained Class Ceiling	Karen Armstrong	The vote to allow female Bishops in the Church of England was strongly opposed by traditionalists who were very vocal in their opposition.	El Saadawi

Reflexivity means we are continually re-evaluating our ideas and theories, nothing is fixed or permanent and everything is up to challenge.

Disembedding means we no longer need face to face contact in order to interact. There is a break down of geographical borders thus making interaction more impersonal.

Cultural Amnesia means the loss of the religion that was handed down by generations before, instead parents are letting their children choose their own belief systems.

Pluralist society is a diverse one, where the people in it believe all kinds of different things and tolerate each other's beliefs even when they don't match their own.

Key Concepts

Lyotard - Monopoly of truth

Hervieu-Leger: Inability to Change

Lyon – Spiritual Shoppers

Pick and Mix Culture

Evaluation

Growth of New Age Movements

Lyon - Disembedding

Conservative Force means

Ideological state apparatus means

Agent of Socialisation means

Theodicy means

Evidence that Religion is a conservative force.

Functionalist Perspective

Marxists Perspective

Interpretivist Perspective – universe of meaning

Berger –

Feminist Perspective

Religion as a Compensator

Social Action Theories are interpretivist approaches which look at the meanings behind an action.

Ascetism means severe self-discipline and avoiding of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.

The **Protestant work ethic**, the Calvinist **work ethic** or the Puritan **work ethic** is a **work ethic** concept in theology, sociology, economics and history that emphasizes that hard **work**, discipline and frugality are a result of a person's subscription to the values espoused by the **Protestant** faith, particularly Calvinism.

Calvinist Beliefs	
Predestination	
Divine Transcendence	
Vocation or Calling	
Calvinism led to Capitalism because....	

Evaluation

McGuire (2001) & Robinson (2001)
Factors which determine if religion is a conservative force or a force for social change.

1	<p>The Nature and extent of Religious Belief: If most people in a society hold religious beliefs and these beliefs have a strong moral code which conflicts with some features of the existing society, then religion is likely to lead to criticism of society and attempt to change it.</p>
2	<p>The significance of religion in society: If religion is a central part of the culture and everyday life of a society then religion is more likely to be used as a justification for social change.</p>
3	<p>The extent of the social involvement of religion: In societies where religious leaders are close to those in power such as politicians and heads of state the more likely they are to influence social change.</p>
4	<p>The degree of central authority in religious organisations: In societies where religious organisations have strong central authority, religion is in a much better position either to promote change or prevent it.</p>

Bruce: Religion as an ideological resource

Taking the moral high ground

Channelling Dissent

Acting as honest broker

Mobilising Public Opinion

Case Studies

American Civil Rights Movement

The New Christian Right

Liberation Theology

Millenarian Movements

	Church	Denomination	Sect	Cult	New Religious Movement	New Age Movement
Size	Large	Medium	Small	Small	Small	Small
Characteristics						
	World Accommodating	World Accommodating	World Reject	N/A	N/A	World Affirming
Types						
Examples						

Practical and Pragmatic reasons

Thinkers: Heelas, Wallis and Barker

Secularisation

Thinker: Giddens and Bruce

Postmodernism

Thinker: Lyotard and Bauman

Globalisation and Media

Thinker: Baudrillard

Marginalisation

Thinker: Weber, Stark & Bainbridge

Protest

Thinker: Glock and Stark

Anomie and Social Change

Thinker: Wilson

Relative Deprivation

Thinker: Stark and Bainbridge

Status Frustration

Thinker: Wallis and Barker

Why are Sects Short Lived?

Problems maintaining commitment	
Loss of the leader	
Changing circumstances	
Religious Diversity / Postmodernism	

Are all sects necessarily short lived?

No: Aldridge		
Why	Case study 1: Jehovah's Witness	Case Study 2: Amish
<p>Many sects have existed for a long time and retain their features as a sect.</p> <p>Not all sects have a charismatic leader.</p> <p>Many sects are successful in socialising the next generation into the sects beliefs and practices as well as converting more followers.</p> <p>Sects have strict behaviour codes and expel anyone who does not conform allowing them to maintain these standards over time.</p>		

Conversionist Sects

Introversionist & Advent Sects

In what ways is religion patriarchal?

Evaluation of Religion being Patriarchal

Reasons for gender and religiosity

Evaluation

1	
2	
3	
4	
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6	
7	

Ancient Polythetic Religion
Female goddesses were worshiped equally with male Gods in Ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt.
Changes in monotheistic Religions
Female Bishops from 2015 Quakers, Unitarians and Baha'is are more gender equal – Aldridge.
Religion as a resistance to Patriarchy
Ahmed (1992), Watson (1994) & Woodhead suggest veils are freeing women of male gaze and sexual harassment.
Gender and Religiosity – The facts

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5	New Religious Movements – Women are more likely to be mems of NRM's for three reasons:

Linda Woodhead (2004)
Aune et al (2004)

Religiosity refers to the extent to which someone sees themselves as religious.

Ethnicity means a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities such as common ancestry, language, history, society, culture or nation.

Ethnic minority means a group of people who are not part of the ethnic majority of a country or nation.

Ethnic identity means when a person asserts their primary identity in terms of their ethnic group or culture to which they belong.

Minority ethnic group religions

African Caribbean

Asian Groups

Ethnicity and Religiosity – The facts

Ethnic Minorities tend to be more religious than the ethnic majority in the UK and religious affiliation forms a big part of their ethnic identity.

Brierley 2013 – Black people are twice as likely to attend church as white people. Muslims, Hindus and Black Christians are more likely to see religion as important and attend weekly at their place of worship.

Modood – there is less religiosity amongst second generation ethnic groups,

Reasons for Ethnic minority Religiosity

Cultural Defence

Cultural Transition

Social Deprivation and Marginality

Social Identity

Trends in Age and Religion Brierley (2015)

- The only group to show a recent rise in church attendance is the Over 65 age group.
- Since 1980 the number of under 15's attending church regularly has halved.
- By 2025 it is projected that only 2.5% of regular church goers will be between 15 and 19 years old.
- Half of UK churches have none under the age of 20 in their congregation.

Why are the elderly more Religious? Voas and Crockett - 2003

The Aging Effect

Generational Effect

Why are the young less Religious?

Socialisation

Thinkers: Arweck and Beckford

Ritualism and Tradition

Thinker: Brierley

Individualisation

Thinker: Collins-Mayo

Trends in Social Class and Religion

Overview

Churches and Denominations

Sects, Cults and New Age

Wilson (1966)
Secularisation is the process whereby religious thinking, practice and institutions lose social significance'.

Religious Thought
The influence that religion has on a persons beliefs and values. For example belief in a supernatural being or life after death.

Religious Practice
The things people do in order to show their religious commitment such as attendance to religious worship.

Religious Institutions
The extent to which religious institutions have retained their influence on the day to day running of society.

Religiosity refers to the extent to which someone sees themselves as religious.

Problems with Measuring Secularisation

Definitions	
Validity	
Reliability	
Representativeness	

Views of Secularisation – Woodhead and Heelas (2000)

Disappearance Thesis

Differentiation Thesis

Causes of Secularisation

Old fashioned	
Loss of status	
Loss of functions	
Challenges from Sects, Cults etc	
Changing leisure patterns	
Growth of science	
Decline of metanarratives	
Religious Pluralism	

Arguments For Secularisation

Arguments Against Secularisation

A Decline in Religious Thinking & Belief	
A Decline in Religious Practice	
Decline of Power & Influence of Religious Institutions	

Religious Thinking & Belief is <u>Not</u> in Decline	
Religious Practice is <u>Not</u> in Decline	
Religious Institutions are <u>Not</u> in Decline	

Secularisation in the UK

Evidence of Secularisation in the UK

Long Term	
Religious Practice	
Religious Affiliation	
Religious Influence	

Arguments against secularisation in the UK

Believing without belonging	
Online Religion	

Secularisation in the USA

Evidence of Secularisation in the USA

Wilson 1962	
Declining Church Attendance	
Secularisation from Within	
Religious Diversity	

Religious Market Theory: Stark and Bainbridge

Eurocentric Secularisation	
Religious Market Theory	
Supply Led Religion	

FUNDEMENTALISM

Types of Fundamentalism

Western Fundamentalism

Third World Fundamentalism

Secular Fundamentalism

Characteristics of Fundamentalism

Literalism

A literal interpretation of religious text. They contain the answers to all life's important questions and gives directions on how to live your life.

Them and Us Mentality

Separateness from the rest of the world, they are right, everyone else is wrong. Davie – seek to establish control in chaos.

Aggressive Action

They like to draw attention to their perceived threat to their beliefs through aggressive action as directed by elders or clergy.

Modern Technology

Although the groups are against modern society they tend to use modern technology to achieve their aims. Inc televangelists, social media

Patriarchy

Hawley – groups tend to want to control women's sexuality as well as their social and economic roles.

Prophecy

Particularly with Christian groups due to belief in "end of days" and second coming of Christ.

Conspiracy

Many Christian and Islamic groups hold anti-semitic views believing the Jews are conspiring to secure world domination.

Causes of Fundamentalism

Giddens	
Bruce	
Bauman	
Castells	

Evaluation

Clash of Civilisations – Huntington 1996

7 Civilisations	Explanation of fundamentalism	Evaluation
Western Islamic Japanese Slavic Orthodox Hindu Confucian Latin American		

Globalisation means the growing interconnectedness between people and nation states. Includes technological, economic and cultural interconnectedness.

Cultural Defence means the ways in which religion serves to unite a community against an external threat.

The **Protestant work ethic**, the Calvinist **work ethic** or the Puritan **work ethic** is a **work ethic** concept in theology, sociology, economics and history that emphasizes that hard **work**, discipline and frugality are a result of a person's subscription to the values espoused by the **Protestant** faith, particularly Calvinism.

Cultural Defence Case Studies

Poland 1945 - 1989

Iran

Religion and Economic Development

Hinduism and India – Nanda (2008)

Overview	
Tele-gurus	
Ultra-Nationalism	

Pentecostalism in South America

Berger	
Lehmann	