

## Beliefs in Society Checklist

Specification Area	Covered	Assessment	Revised
<p><b>Ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions</b></p>			
<p><b>The relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functionalism: conservative force, inhibition of change, collective conscience. Durkheim and totemism, anomie; civil religions</li> <li>• Marxism: religion as ideology, legitimating social inequality, disguising exploitation etc</li> <li>• Weber: religion as a force for social change: theodicies, the Protestant ethic</li> <li>• Neo-Marxism: religion used by those opposing the ruling class, liberation theology</li> <li>• Feminism: religious beliefs supporting patriarchy</li> <li>• Fundamentalist beliefs: rejecting change by reverting to supposed traditional values and practices.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typologies of religious organisations: churches, denominations, sects and cults, with examples of each New Religious Movements and typologies of NRMs e.g. world rejecting/accommodating/affirming; millenarian beliefs, with examples of each</li> <li>• New Age movements and spirituality, with examples</li> <li>• The relationship of these organisations to religious and spiritual belief and practice.</li> </ul>			

<p><b>The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons why people join NRMs, NAMs and other organisations</li> <li>• Gender and religion: women: women’s greater participation, women in religious organisations including NRMs; men’s participation and organisational roles in religions; sexuality and religion; images of gender in religions</li> <li>• Ethnicity and religion: religion and ethnic identity; religion in migrant communities; religions and minority ethnic groups in the UK today</li> <li>• Age and religion: religious participation and belief by age group; religious socialisation</li> <li>• Social class and religion: religious participation and belief by social class</li> </ul>			
<p><b>The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context and the spread of religions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation and belief systems, including fundamentalism</li> <li>• Postmodernity: end of meta-narratives, ‘spiritual shopping’</li> <li>• Secularisation: problems of definition and measurement; aspects of secularisation such as disengagement, rationalisation, rise of pluralism/diversity, desacralisation, disenchantment, individuation</li> <li>• Arguments and evidence for and against secularisation e.g attendance and membership; believing without belonging; the secularisation cycle theory and compensators (Stark and Bainbridge); UK compared with other countries (eg USA) and global significance of religion today.</li> </ul>			