What matters most to Christians and Humanists?

Humanism background information

Humanists do not believe in a god. They believe it is possible to live a good and fulfilling life without following a traditional religion.

They do not follow a holy book either. Instead, Humanists value traits like reason and rely on science to explain the way things are.

Humanists believe that people have one life to live - there is no afterlife. As a result, they focus on being happy and making the most of their life. They also believe they have a duty to support others.

Key Questions:

- Do rules matter? Why? What is a code for living?
- What is a humanist? What codes for living do non-religious people use?
- What codes for living do Christians try to follow?
- Do different people have different values?
- Can we create a code for living that would help the world?

Key Vocabulary

humanist a person who believes in humanism (= the idea that people do not need a god or religion to satisfy their spiritual and emotional needs)

Christian of or belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ

values the principles that help you to decide what is right and wrong, and how to act in various situations

non-religious not having a belief in a god or gods

rules an accepted principle or instruction that states the way things are or should be done, and tells you what you are allowed or are not allowed to do

code a set of principles that are accepted and used by society or a particular group of people:

living the way in which you live your life

community a group of people who are considered as a unit because of their shared interests or background

morals standards for good or bad character and behaviour

fairness the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable

justice fairness in the way people are dealt with

forgiveness the act of forgiving or the willingness to forgive

HONESTY talking straight, being genuine and ethical

TRUST Keeping our Promises

COURAGE taking accountability for results, being up front about mistakes and taking considered risks

CARING Listening carefully to others, working together to achieve shared goals

RESPECT treating individuals with dignity

FAIRNESS Treating people justly and equitably

Church of England

Humanists