

## 1.01 What is secularism? (Part 1) – Presentation

<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>This resource can be used either as a primer for a wider exploration of secularism or to give a short overview of key secularist issues. It is suitable for assembly, while resource 1.02 is more suitable for a classroom discussion.</p> <p>The stimulus material sets out some of the things that secularists notice about religion and society that lead to the foundations of secularism, which are defined. The exercises explore students' pre-existing knowledge and invite discussion.</p>
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	Politics   Religion & Belief Education   Citizenship   SMSC   Philosophy
<b>KEY QUESTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is secularism?</li> <li>• How do secularists think about religion?</li> <li>• How do secularists think about decisions?</li> </ul>
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<p><b>Basic</b></p> <p>Students should demonstrate they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the basic definition of secularism.</li> <li>• Understand the concerns and basic questions that secularism seeks to address.</li> <li>• Understand the relevance of secularism to subjects they are familiar with.</li> <li>• Offer basic opinions on the key concerns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advanced</b></p> <p>In addition to the basic learning outcomes, students should demonstrate they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer opinions on the concerns and basic questions that secularism seeks to address, drawing on a range of examples.</li> <li>• Understand the relevance of secularism to key social debates.</li> </ul>
<b>LINKS</b>	Resource page: <a href="https://ExploringSecularism.org/101-what-is-secularism-part-1-pr">ExploringSecularism.org/101-what-is-secularism-part-1-pr</a>
<b>STIMULUS</b>	<p><b>Stimulus #1 (What is secularism?)</b></p> <p>See slideshow</p>
<b>EXERCISE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review Stimulus #1 (What is secularism?)</b></li> <li>• Run through the slideshow, pausing to invite contributions from or discussions among the audience at appropriate intervals.</li> </ul>
<b>TAKE IT FURTHER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A class could put on their own version of this assembly, expanding on the presentation to explain the key questions secularism seeks to address.</li> <li>• Split the class into groups of 4–5. Each should do a short presentation on one of the key questions in this theme. If the students are older or more able then they should also answer questions from the rest of the class.</li> </ul>