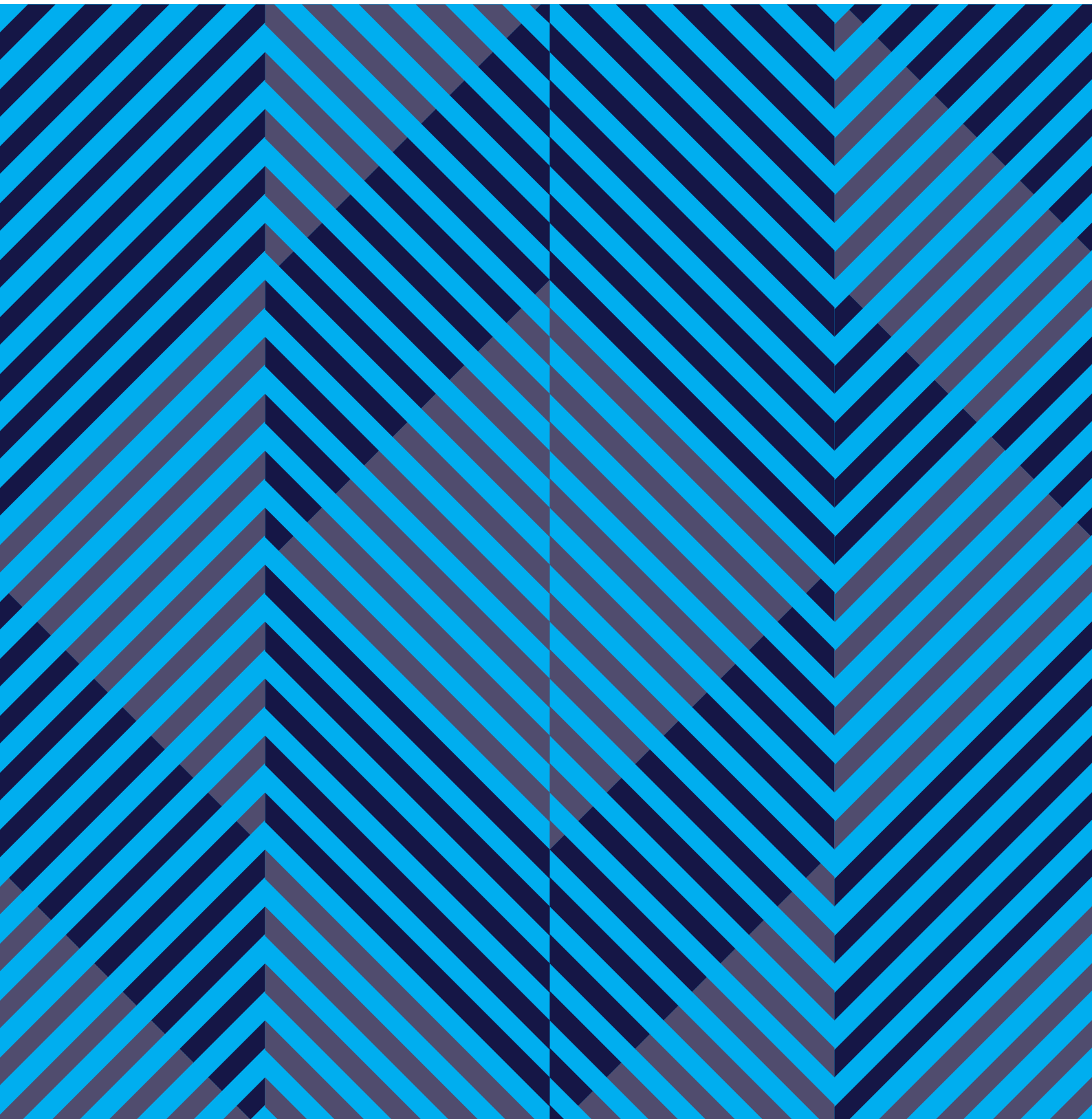


# EXPLORING SECULARISM



**SECULARISM, RELIGION & SOCIETY: KEY DEBATES FACTSHEET**



**Exploring Secularism** is all about questions which arise in a pluralist society where people have different beliefs. The resources advocate asking these questions; they are not a manifesto of answers. It is for students to explore a range of answers to these questions and come up with some of their own.

**Secularism, religion and society: key debates:** People of all faiths and none and in all societies have considered how people's beliefs impact on them and the rights of others. Secularism seeks to create a framework in which the rights of all in society are protected. Many pressing social issues concern different interpretations of religious privilege, tolerance and discrimination.

## Questions to explore in this theme:

Key question	Main subject area(s)	Other subject area(s)
What is a secular democracy?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values Politics	SMSC Religion and belief education
What is a theocracy?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values Politics	SMSC Religion and belief education Geography
Are secularism and pluralism in conflict?	Citizenship Fundamental British SMSC	Religion and belief education
Are we a 'Christian country'?	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	History SMSC Fundamental British Values
Should we have a state church?	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	SMSC Fundamental British Values
Should religion influence government?	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	SMSC Fundamental British Values Philosophy
What is secularisation?	Citizenship Religion and belief education	History Politics SMSC Fundamental British Values
Should government ceremonies be Christian?	Citizenship Politics	Religion and belief education
Should religions be exempt from animal welfare laws?	Citizenship Politics	Religion and belief education SMSC
Should religions run public services?	Citizenship Politics	Religion and belief education SMSC
What about social action by religious groups?	Citizenship Politics	Religion and belief education SMSC
What role should religion have in schools?	Citizenship Politics	Religion and belief education SMSC
What role should worship have in schools?	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	SMSC

What are 'British Values'?	Fundamental British Values SMSC	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What role should religion have in healthcare?	PSHE Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	SMSC
How should Religious Education be taught?	Citizenship Politics Religion and belief education	SMSC

### Tips for exploring this theme:

You can find a basic secularist perspective on the core questions raised in this theme in our guide for the teachers at [exploringsecularism.org/why-explore-secularism](https://exploringsecularism.org/why-explore-secularism)

You can find further resources and exercises related to this theme at [exploringsecularism.org/secularism-religion-and-society](https://exploringsecularism.org/secularism-religion-and-society)

News stories concerning a clash of rights involving religion can be adapted into discussion resources. The National Secular Society's website has a large archive of news stories: [secularism.org.uk/news](https://secularism.org.uk/news)

Going back to November 2009, our daily media roundup has in excess of 16,000 articles from a range of sources and viewpoints covering issues related to secularism. You can find an example and subscribe at [secularism.org.uk/newsletters/view/daily-media-briefing](https://secularism.org.uk/newsletters/view/daily-media-briefing) or search the full archive at [secularism.org.uk/in-the-media](https://secularism.org.uk/in-the-media)

Most news sites have a religion section where issues involving religious privilege, tolerance and discrimination come up. Try the BBC, *Guardian* or *Telegraph*:

[bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cjnw18q4ny3t/religion](https://bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cjnw18q4ny3t/religion)

[theguardian.com/world/religion](https://theguardian.com/world/religion)

[telegraph.co.uk/religion/](https://telegraph.co.uk/religion/)