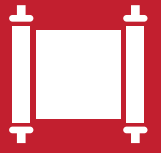
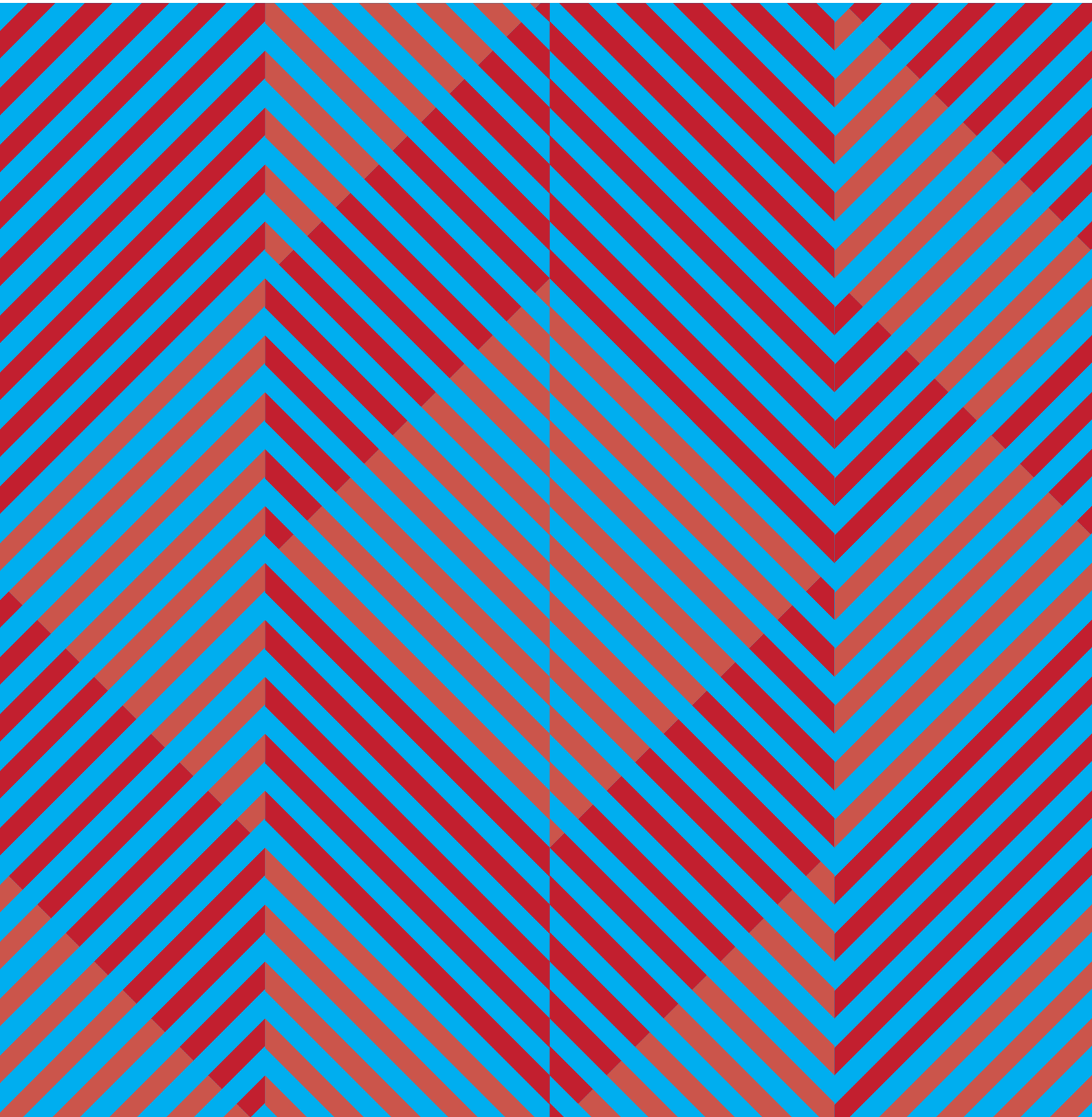


# EXPLORING SECULARISM



**SECULARISM & HISTORY** 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 and history** is a key value in a pluralist society and in the development of secularism. Restrictions on free expression – both formal and informal – are common features of religious privilege and discrimination. The modern secularist movement in the UK first emerged in reaction to restrictions on critical speech about religion and the state.

## Questions to explore in this theme:

Key question	Main subject area(s)	Other subject area(s)
What role has secularism played in British history?	History	Politics Geography Religion and belief education
What has secularism looked like in different historical settings?	History	Politics Geography Religion and belief education

### 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-and-history](https://exploringsecularism.org/secularism-and-history)

The National Secular Society website has a range of resources on the history of British secularism, including links to third party publications and resources. Find out more at [secularism.org.uk/history](https://secularism.org.uk/history)

Following a collaborative archival project between Bishopsgate Institute and the Conway Hall Ethical Society, the National Secular Society's historical archives are now available to the public at Conway Hall Library. The library is also a great resource for the history of British secularism and freethought. You can find out more at: [secularism.org.uk/our-archives](https://secularism.org.uk/our-archives)