



# SMART START<sup>®</sup>



How does this picture make you FEEL?



# Human Rights: Extremism

**Learning Objective:-**  
To explore what is meant  
by extremism.



3/4

You can describe what 'Extremism' means and know why some religious people have these **FUNDAMENTAL** views.

5/6

You can describe fully what 'Extremism' is and can give examples.

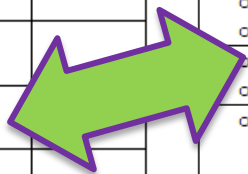
7/8/9

You can describe and explain what is meant by 'Extremism' and can explain why other Christians might be against these views.



## HUMAN RIGHTS (CHRISTIANITY)

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**Censorship, Discrimination, Extremism, Human Rights, Personal Conviction, Prejudice, Absolute and Relative Poverty, Social Justice**

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## Censorship...

The practice of suppressing and limiting access to materials considered obscene, offensive or a threat to security. People may also be restricted in their speech by censorship laws.

## Extremism...

Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.

## Personal Conviction...

Something a person strongly feels or believes in

## Prejudice...

Pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without cause

# What is religious extremism?

See if you can put a sentence together that explains religious extremism rites using these words:

fanatical

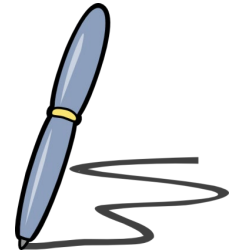
extreme

views

action

Religious extremism is when a person holds **extreme** or **fanatical** religious **views**. An extremist might resort to or supports extreme **action**.

Write this  
Definition in your  
Books!



# What is fundamentalist Christianity?

See if you can put a sentence together that explains fundamental Christianity using these words:

statements

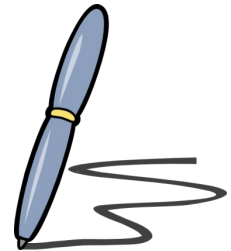
Bible

literally

true

Fundamentalist Christians (fundamentalists) believe that all **statements** in the **Bible** are word-for-word, **literally true**.

If Genesis says that the world was created in 6 days, then it was created in 6 x 24hr periods.



**Good** if you can state what Christian fundamentalism is

**Great** if you can give examples of Christian fundamentalism

**Even better** if you can suggest reasons why Christians against extremism



**What could be  
the message  
of this  
cartoon?**

# Why is there a variety of viewpoints?



“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.”

People read the Bible and **interpret** it differently.



# Shhhhhh!

Don't you know women are not allowed to speak in Church?





# Fundamentalism Today

## Watch the video and answer the questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Fundamentalist Christians - The Most Hated Family in America

1. How many children does Shirley have?

.....

2. What do the signs in the video say?

.....

3. What does Shirley think is not a 'perverted' sex act?

.....

4. What does Shirley call a nation who say 'it is OK to be gay'?

.....

5. Which commandment does Shirley think homosexuality goes against?

.....

6. Why does this church take their hate to the funerals of dead soldiers?

.....

7. Most people would consider the Sergeant's death an act of heroism, an act of courage. Do you agree?

.....

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8. What was most shocking about this video?

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## Which of these is not an extremist view?

- An atheist saying, “All religious people are stupid.”
- An agnostic saying, “I think I believe in a God, but I don’t associate myself with those lunatics.”
- A religious person saying, “My religion is definitely the right one. Everyone else is wrong and will be punished by God.”
- A religious person saying, “God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.”

# Read, highlight and complete!

## Religious Extremism

**Extremism:** Holding aggressive political or religious views. Recently, extreme views have led to terrorist actions, however Jesus taught that 'those who take up the sword, die by the sword' and therefore discouraged such actions.

### Extremism within Christianity:

One of the earliest examples of extremism within Christianity is the famous **Gunpowder Plot** in 1605, where Guy Fawkes attempted to assassinate King James I and to blow up the government buildings.

Today, **Fundamentalist** schools are teaching girls that they should obey men, that homosexuality is "unnatural" and that the account of creation in Genesis is the only true account. This is because of a specific type of interpretation of Biblical texts. For example, in Genesis Eve was created 'as a helper' for Adam, and therefore these schools teach women to obey and be of service to men. The Bible also states how God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their constant sinning against God. Fundamentalists believe this 'vice' to be a metaphor for homosexuality and bestiality.

**Creationism** is usually taught alongside scientific theories such as the Big Bang and Evolution. However, some schools explicitly only teach Creationism (creation according to the Bible), presenting this as fact. This has resulted in many extreme Christians rejecting science completely.

From 1865, the **Ku Klux Klan** (Protestant-led) beat, burned, raped and killed African Americans, Jews, Roman Catholics and any other minority group. Their goal was to re-establish Protestant Christian values in America by any means necessary, and believed that Jesus was the first 'Klansmen'. From 1915 onward, Klansmen conducted cross-burnings not only to intimidate targets, but also to demonstrate their respect and reverence for Jesus Christ, and the ritual of lighting crosses was steeped in Christian symbolism, including prayer and singing hymns.



## RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM



### Christians Against Extremism:



- Christian charities have been set up to reconcile different Christian groups and bring an end to violence and conflict, e.g. **Corrymeela** in Northern Ireland work to bring Roman Catholics and Protestants together as part of one community.
- Jesus said, "**those who live by the sword, die by the sword**". This means that violence and extreme action will only ever result in bloodshed. Nothing good can come of it. Jesus was a pacifist and believed that Love would be the answer. In the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**, Jesus showed the importance of '**loving thy neighbour**', regardless of who they are or where they are from. Christians believe that they "**are all one in Christ Jesus**."
- **Martin Luther King** famously stood up against racism and injustice in a non-violent and peaceful way. As a result of his protests, e.g. the bus boycott, he was able to change the segregation laws that saw white people take priority over black people. This was a victory for Christian peacemakers everywhere. Jesus called all people to be peacemakers.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016, the **World Council of Churches** (WCC) came together in interfaith dialogue (different religions coming together to talk about their faith). This resulted in peace-building and a breakdown of misunderstanding and intolerance. They agreed that, "**religion should never be used to justify violence**." The people who claim to be acting in the name of religion when they shed blood are using religion incorrectly, to justify their own, selfish desires.

### Questions:

1. What is extremism?
2. What was one of the earliest examples of extremism within Christianity?
3. What three things are Fundamentalist schools teaching children?]
4. Which group believed that Jesus was the first 'Klansmen'?
5. What do **Corrymeela** do?
6. Jesus said, "**those who live by the sword, die by the sword**." What does this mean?
7. How did Martin Luther King stand up against extremist action?
8. On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, what did the World Council of Churches agree?



# Have YOUR say ...

## Arguments **for** freedom of expression:

Extreme views do not reflect the opinion of the whole religion.

If people held extreme views then they would still hold them, even if you banned the expression of them.

Saying what we like is a **personal opinion** and should be related to context - it is uncertain whether there can be a balance between free speech and censorship.

## Argument **against** freedom of expression:

The Westboro Baptist Church in the US campaign against gay people and Jews. Their language and actions are **incredibly offensive**.

Some people **dislike** being disturbed at home when an **evangelist comes knocking** to talk about their religion



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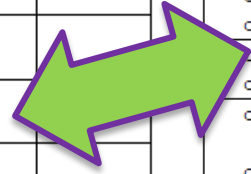
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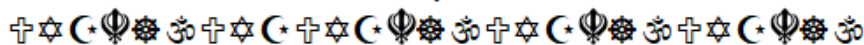


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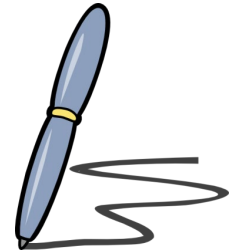
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Write this  
Definition in your  
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# Exam-Style Question b) 5 marks

Give ONE example of extremism in Christianity. (5 marks)

P - **Point** – make your point

*An example of extremism in Christianity is the Westboro Baptist Church who believe that ...*

E – **Evidence** your point

*In the Bible, in Genesis chapter 2, it says God created Adam and Eve.*

E- **Explain** your evidence

*They interpret this to mean .....*



**Censorship Discrimination Extremism Human Rights  
Personal Conviction Prejudice Social Justice**

# Exam-Style Question

Which band are you?

Band	Band Descriptor	Mark Total
3	<p>An excellent, coherent answer showing knowledge and understanding of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. An excellent understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p>Uses a range of religious/specialist language, terms and sources of wisdom and authority extensively, accurately and appropriately.</p>	4 – 5
2	<p>A good, generally accurate answer showing knowledge and understanding of the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. A good understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p>Uses religious/specialist language and terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority generally accurately.</p>	2 – 3
1	<p>A limited statement of information about the religious idea, belief, practice, teaching or concept. A limited understanding of how belief influences individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p>Uses religious/specialist language and terms and/or sources of wisdom and authority in a limited way.</p>	1
0	No relevant information provided.	0

How many marks would you give yourself?

**Good** if you can state what Christian fundamentalism is

**Great** if you can give examples of Christian fundamentalism

**Even better** if you can suggest reasons why Christians against extremism

# Human Rights: Extremism an example from Sikhism

Learning Objective:-  
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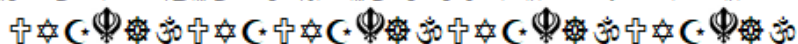
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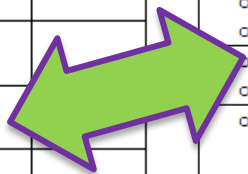
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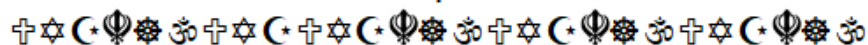


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# 'I never thought I'd be terrorised by my fellow Sikhs at a wedding'

When interfaith marriages take place, UK temples now often hire security guards to protect weddings from demonstrators



The ceremony in Leamington Spa is a lot smaller than the newlyweds had hoped. Just close family and friends – those they can **really trust**. The marriage takes place **in secret**, on a Friday afternoon.

It's a beautiful, bright day at the town's Gurdwara Sahib temple, but there is an anxiety in the air that is more than typical pre-wedding jitters: **the young couple have been forced to marry under "oppressive circumstances" after previous weddings were disrupted by protesting religious men who do not want Sikhs to marry out of the faith.**



The **protesters dress in hoods**, cover their faces and **intimidate guests** at the temple. **Yet they are Sikhs** – a religion readily associated with peace and inclusivity.

“I have got through the days of being called a Paki and a nig-nog,” the registrar Bhopinder Singh tells the Guardian. “I never thought that the day would come when I would be frightened and terrorised by people of my own faith.”

When an interfaith marriage now takes place, the temple is forced to hire security guards to protect couples and their families. To avoid trouble, some couples are choosing to get married on weekdays, which are less likely to be disrupted.

The bride is a follower of Jainism, an ancient Indian religion similar to Buddhism, and her groom is a Sikh. The couple do not want to be identified for fear of repercussions.

At the temple, volunteers cook sabzi and chapattis in the kitchen, preparing to feed the forty or so people of every faith who will walk through its doors to attend the wedding.

Upstairs, in one of the prayer rooms, the couple – both 29-year-old professionals - and their relatives are anxious.

The bride says she received a phone call that morning and was told her wedding would have to be a day sooner than planned, for her own safety.

“We have been educated here and are moderate and should be free to marry whomever we wish,” she says. “I had to rush up from London – this is no way to be. There is a fundamental problem with the way [the protesters] are behaving and it will not be accepted.”

Her new husband says: “We have had to get married under oppressive circumstances. We were forced into this. The other option was to have a bigger wedding but hire security and we didn’t want to do that.



Mota Singh, a councillor and **former mayor of Leamington Spa**, calls the protesters **“fundamentalists”**. Singh, 77, says because of his moderate outlook he has received **repeated threats from the group** online and in person and has even had a brick thrown through his window.

Shamsher Singh, previously told the Guardian: **“More and more young people are becoming interested in the true interpretation of what it means to be Sikh.**

**“The elder generation arrived [in the UK] and fitted their faith round the need to assimilate, survive and to get work.** This led to a stripping back of the spiritual nature of what it means to be a Sikh to a series of symbols.

**“Now younger people want to reclaim Sikhism as a deeply spiritual, peaceful and encompassing religion and this is why we are seeing these protests.”**

Shortly after the **Sikh Council was formed**, it issued an **edict saying weddings between Sikhs and non-Sikhs could not take place in temples**, arguing that the Sikh wedding ceremony, Anand Karaj, should be reserved only for Sikhs.

Marrying people of other faiths is acceptable, they say, but **conducting that marriage in a Sikh temple is not. Non-Sikhs can only be involved if they accept the Sikh faith and change their name to include Singh or Kaur, the council insists.**

The temple's registrar, Bhopinder Singh, said he was pleased the wedding season was almost over for the year. "I have been in this country since the age of nine and have lived through the football hooliganism of the 1970s. These guys were far more scary than football hooligans," he said. **"They were foul-mouthed and intimidating and I have never experienced anything like this."**

Other temples across the country have been less robust under pressure from the protests groups and no longer hold interfaith marriages. But the temple committee in Leamington is adamant that they will continue. "On the face of it what they are protesting is against mixed marriage – but it is deeper than that," said the temple trustee Jaswant Singh Virdee. **"They want to control the temple with their own people and with their own extremist views."**

Balraj Singh Dhesi, the first Asian mayor of Leamington, said the protests were a British phenomenon. **"Interfaith marriages have been taking place since the birth of Sikhism hundreds of years ago. These prejudices, which are growing and are very concerning, will cause damage to British society."** They are indigenous to this country but yet have an obvious disregard for integration."

Friday's wedding passed off without incident, but there is a grim irony in a couple spending the biggest day of their lives praying for it to be totally uneventful.

# Exam-Style Question b) 5 marks

Give ONE example of extremism in Sikhism. (5 marks)

**P - Point** – make your point

*An example of extremism in Sikhism is the fundamentalist young Sikhs who want to re claim Sikhism as deeply spiritual because they feel that their parent's generation .....*

**E – Evidence** your point

*They are turning up to Sikh Gurdwaras holding mixed marriages and ....*

**E- Explain** your evidence

*Jaswant Singh Virdee believes that these protests run deeper than just protesting against mixed marriage .....*

**Censorship Discrimination Extremism Human Rights  
Personal Conviction Prejudice Social Justice**