

Freedom of Faith in the UK

- To examine the variety and growth of religion in the UK
- To understand that the freedom to choose and hold these faiths is protected in law.



British Value

Multi-Cultural UK

Start: Complete the cloze task below

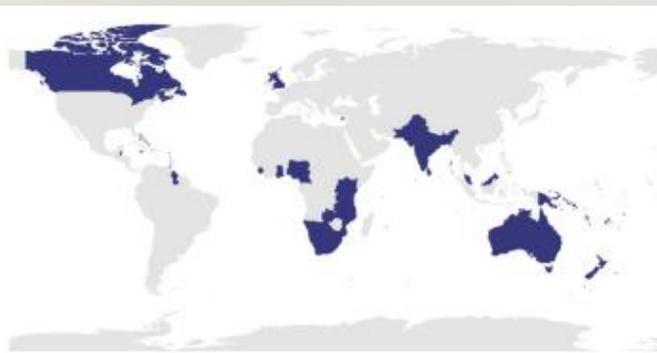


Word Bank

diversity
strengthen
Empire
migrated
2000
Commonwealth
cultural

For over [] years people have arrived in Britain, contributing their own [] influence. Much of our religious [] is the result of the British [] (at its height, the British Empire governed over one quarter of the world's population) After the British Empire collapsed, people from the [] [] to Britain, and countries such as the Caribbean and India were invited to help [] our workforce.

The Commonwealth of Nations, or the **Commonwealth** is an body of 53 member states which were territories of the former British Empire.



British Values

1840 Many people came to England to escape a terrible famine in Ireland.



1555-1833: Afro-Caribbean people arrived because of Britain's involvement in the slave trade.



migrants to arrive from

AD: Romans, bringing the black people with them from North Africa. A few hundred years later they returned to Italy leaving those who wished to stay.



the Second

to Britain



wards: Indians these arrived of Britain's Empire and with far off es.



British Value



Take some thinking time to read through the tables below. What conclusions can you draw from your analysis of both these census reports...

Religion in the UK today

2001 census report

Religion	Number	%
Christianity	40,633,031	65.1
Islam	1,589,183	0.8
Hinduism	557,985	0.1
Sikhism	335,930	0.1
Judaism	266,375	0.1
Buddhism	151,283	0.1
Other religion	177,694	0.5
<i>Total non-Christian religion</i>	<i>3,078,450</i>	<i>1.9</i>
No religion	9,103,727	27.6
Religion not stated	4,288,719	5.5
<i>No religion and Religion not stated</i>	<i>13,392,446</i>	<i>33.0</i>
Total population	57,103,927	100.0

2011 census report

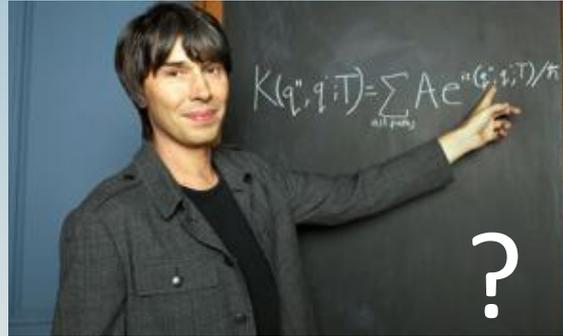
Religion	Number	%
Christianity	36,093,374	58.8
Islam	2,782,803	4.5
Hinduism	833,012	1.4
Sikhism	432,213	0.7
Judaism	269,233	0.4
Buddhism	260,538	0.4
Other religion	255,726	0.4
<i>Total non-Christian religion</i>	<i>4,833,525</i>	<i>7.9</i>
No religion	16,038,345	26.1
Religion not stated	4,406,071	7.2
<i>No religion and Religion not stated</i>	<i>20,444,416</i>	<i>33.3</i>
Total population	61,371,315	100.0



The number of people calling themselves Christian has declined. Why might this be, do you think?



Emphasis on consumerism



Attraction to scientific view of world



Alternative sources of spirituality/
self-development

The 'No religion and Religion not stated' category is the same in both census reports (33%). Christianity is declining but there is a rise in non-religious and other religious groups. Can you suggest why this might be?



Immigration



Alternative sources of spirituality/self development



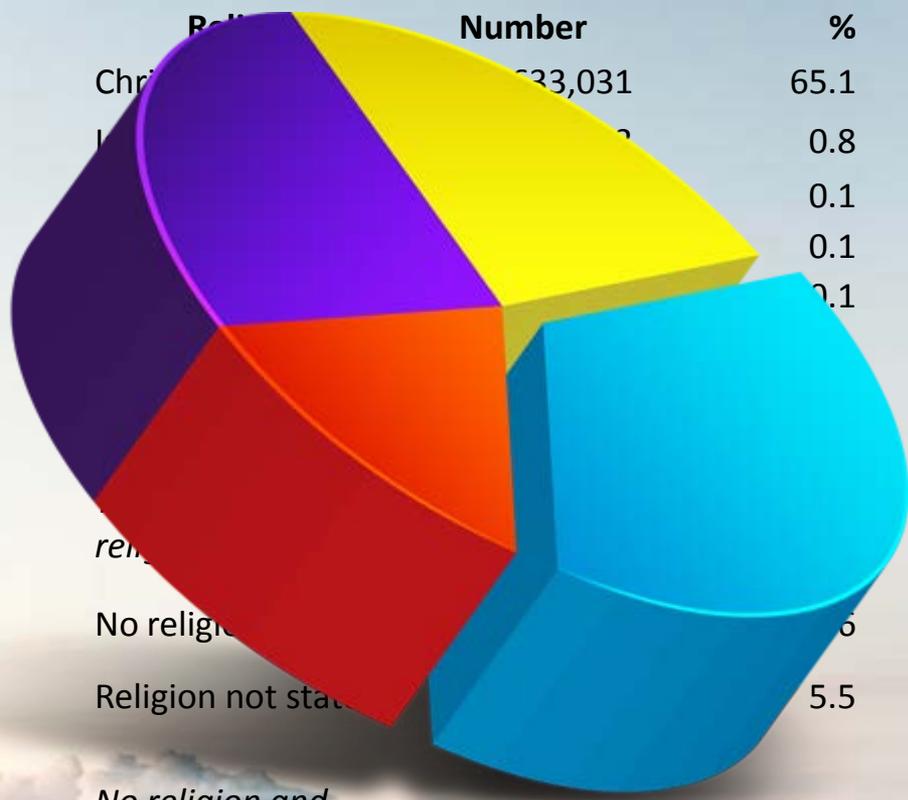
British Value



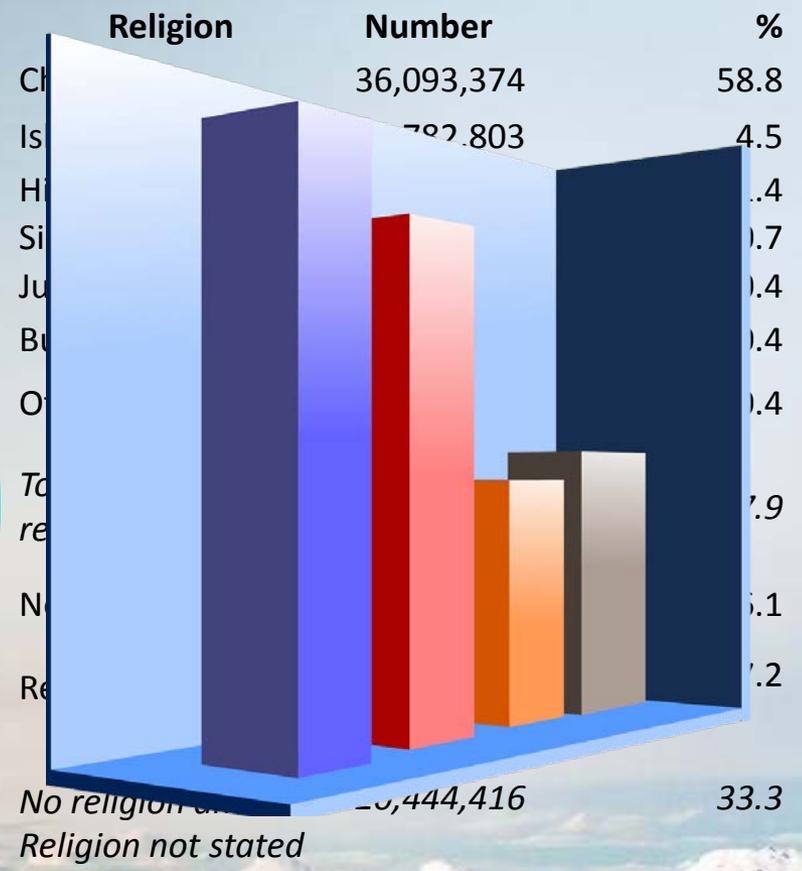
Create a chart to represent the data in the census reports you studied.

Religion in the UK

2001 census report



2011 census report



Freedom of Religion in the UK

Case study:

A British Airways employee suffered discrimination at work over her Christian beliefs, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled. Nadia Eweida took her case to the ECHR after BA made her stop wearing her white gold cross visibly.

The court said BA had not struck a fair balance between Ms Eweida's religious beliefs and the company's wish to 'project a certain corporate image'. The court ruled that the rights of Ms Eweida's had been violated under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which stipulates, in Article 9, the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.



British Value

France Bans Veil

In 2010 France banned the wearing of the full face veil. This law came into effect in April 2011. Women face a €150 fine for someone forcing someone to wear one on face a €10,000 fine or 2 years in prison.

[Watch this clip:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuMISZxcffo)

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Why is this new law controversial?



Do you agree with the ban?

Would British values support such a law?



In 2014 opposition groups took the case to the European Court of Human Rights who upheld the ban. The court ruling stated that: 'the ban "was not expressly based on the religious connotation of the clothing in question but solely on the fact that it concealed the face".'

British Value

Sikhism in the UK



Nearly 1% of the UK population are Sikh. The 5Ks are the symbols worn by all initiated Sikhs; and incorporating the 5Ks into everyday life is very important to Sikhs. However some British Laws would mean that Sikhs cannot uphold the 5 Ks.



How is this dealt with?



British law recognizes the wearing of the Sikh symbols of faith as the right of a Sikh to show his or her religion.

- **Employment Act of 1989** – prevents discrimination against the Sikhs by granting exemptions from hardhat requirements.
- **Road Traffic Act 1988**, Section 16(2) – grants exemption to a Sikh from wearing a helmet while on a motorcycle.
- **Criminal Justice Act 1988**, Section 139 – allows a Sikh to carry a *Kirpan* in public places, including schools, courts, and Houses of Parliament, for religious reasons.



The 5ks

Kesh is long hair. Sikhs do not cut their hair. Sikh men wear a turban.

Kacchera are shorts.

Kanga is a small wooden comb.

Kara is a bracelet.

Kirpan is a knife or sword.



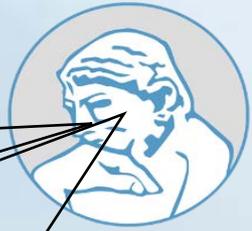
Eurostar train policy regarding carrying of kirpan [HERE](#)

What do these exemptions tell us about British value of tolerance and do you agree?

British Value

Critics asserted that the 2006 Racial and Religious Hatred Act renders the Bible and the Quran illegal, in their current form in the UK.

When the Act became law, the comedian, Rowan Atkinson commented:



Why do some think the Act would render the Bible illegal?

Although the Act is intended to tackle religious extremism (as in the case of so-called Islamic hate preachers), many argued it would seriously undermine freedom of speech.

Supporters of the Bill responded that all UK legislation has to be interpreted in the light of Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights which guarantees freedom of religion and expression, and so denied that an Act of Parliament is capable of making any religious text illegal.

Other religious laws...

- a. The 2006 Racial and Religious Hatred Act made it an offence in England and Wales to incite hatred against a person on the grounds of their religion.
- b. The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against people on the basis of religion, in the supply of goods and services and selection for employment.



'I appreciate that this measure is an attempt to provide comfort and protection to them but unfortunately it is more likely to promote tension between communities than tolerance.'

Religion in Schools

The Education Reform Act 1988 introduced a further requirement that the R.E. lessons or assemblies should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

Religious Education and Collective Worship are compulsory in many state schools in England and Wales by virtue of clauses 69 and 70 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Clause 71 of the act gives parents the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Do you agree that the religious education in our country should be, on the whole, Christian?



Do you agree that the religious education should be compulsory?



Is it acceptable that a parent can withdraw their child from timetabled R.E. lessons on the grounds that they do not want their child exposed to other beliefs.



British Value

Faith Schools

In England and Wales, a significant number of state funded schools are faith schools with the vast majority Christian (mainly either of Church of England or Roman Catholic) though there are also Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faith schools.

Faith schools follow the same national curriculum as state schools, though with the added ethos of the host religion.

The term 'faith school' was introduced in Britain in 1990 following calls from Muslims for institutions comparable to the existing Christian church schools



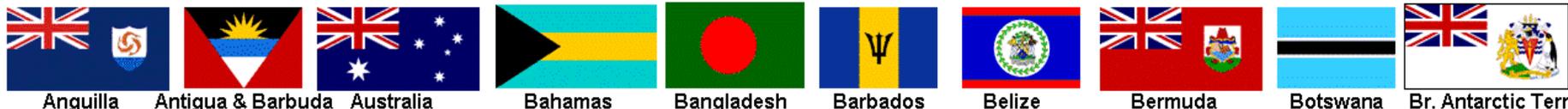
2011, about 1/3 of the 20,000 state funded schools in England were faith schools, approximately 7,000 - of which 68% were Church of England schools and 30% were Roman Catholic. There were 42 Jewish, 12 Muslim, 3 Sikh and 1 Hindu faith schools.



Take a look at some of the issues and arguments for and against Faith Schools in the UK. Have your vote:

<http://www.debate.org/opinions/should-faith-based-schools-be-banned>

FLAGS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS



Flag of the Commonwealth of Nations adopted 26 March 1976

Back to slide



British Value

A **census** is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population.

Uk census reports take place every 10 years, beginning in 1801, with the exceptions of 1941. The last census report was in 2011.

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British Value

Eurostar Train policy

Eurostar Chief Executive Officer:

‘Our security arrangements at Eurostar regarding the Kirpan depend on the actual size of the Kirpan being carried; which do of course vary in size very considerably.’

‘In general any blade of three inches length or less is now permitted to be carried by passengers – provided this is not a flick knife or lock knife. Any longer than this, and a passenger is not allowed to carry the blade on them personally – but they can of course consign the item to registered luggage so that it is carried in a separate, locked compartment on the train. This would apply to a sword-length Kirpan, for instance. Most Kirpans are quite small.’



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British Value

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