

Title: New Religious Movements

21/04/2020

Learning Objective: To understand new religious movements.

Do Now

Download the worksheet from the folder.

Five to start

- 1 Collect equipment & book and sit in seat.
- 2 Open book, write the date, title, LO & answer Do Now questions.
- 3 Answer name for register.
- 4 Self-assess using the mark scheme in red pen. Write down key word.
- 5 Listen to LO.

Keywords – Copy into your book

Obsolete – outdated or no longer useful.

New Religious Movements



Have you
heard of
any of
these?

Rastafarianism

Paganism / Wicca

Scientology

Jehovah's Witnesses

Humanism

Mormons

Moonies

These are 'other religions' or New Religious Movements.

They have begun within the last few centuries.

In the 2011 census 401,117 identified as belonging to a New Religious Movement.

Name 3 New Religious Movements

- Rastafarianism
- Paganism / Wicca
- Scientology
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Humanism
- Mormons
- Moonies



What is a New Religious Movement?

- New religious movements include entirely new religions such as Scientology.
- However, they also include new ways of practising older religions, such as Jehovah's Witnesses or Rastafarians (Judaism / Christianity).
- NRMs are usually very small religious groups, compared to the societies that the followers live in, so they can sometimes include religions such as Hinduism or Buddhism, when practised in a western country.

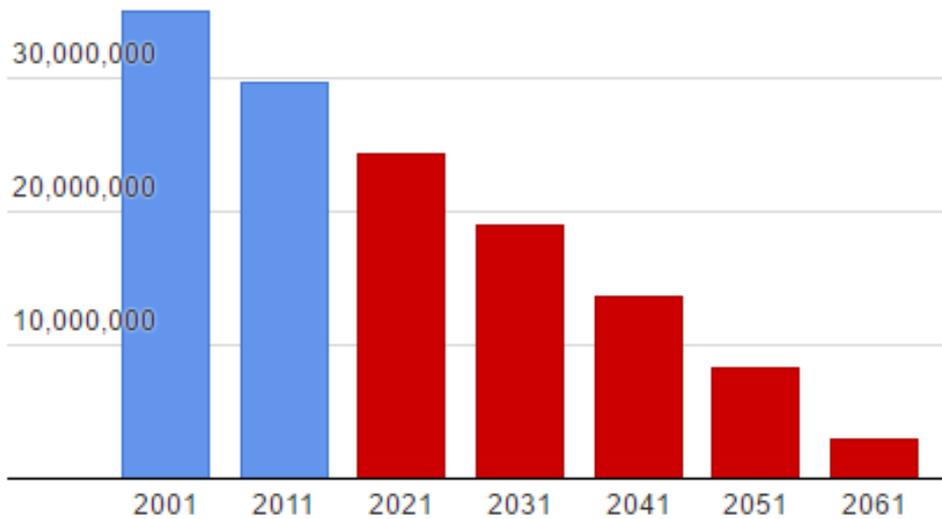


Check which is correct...

- A – NRMs are new religions.
- B – NRMs are new ways of practising old religions.
- C – NRMs include larger religions being practised in countries where they are non-standard.
- D – All of the above.

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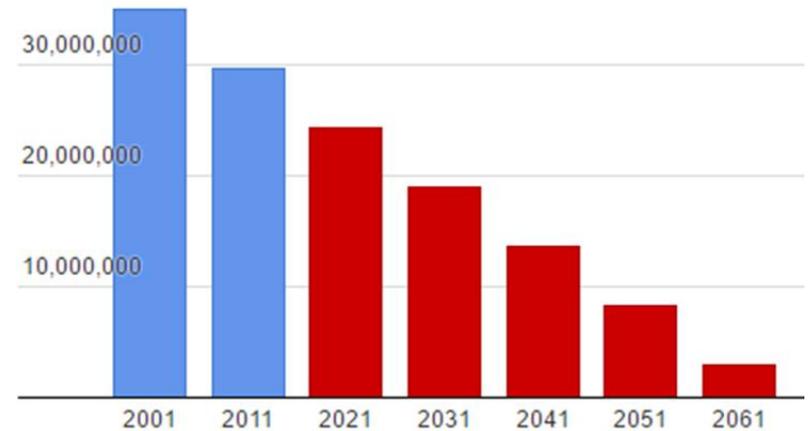


In the blue columns, how many people said that they were Christian in the 2001 census? What about the 2011 census?

In the red columns, it shows what statisticians predict will happen in future censuses. What will happen if the trend continues?

Answers

- In the 2001 Census, around 33million UK citizens said they were religious, compared to under 30million in the 2011 census.
- If the trend continues, around 25million will be religious by the 2021 census.



Why do you think religion is becoming less popular? Make a list of at least 3 reasons.

Are old religions obsolete?

What do you think about this question? Does ancient mean obsolete?

Obsolete means no longer needed

How do you think this question might apply to religion? Can you give any examples?

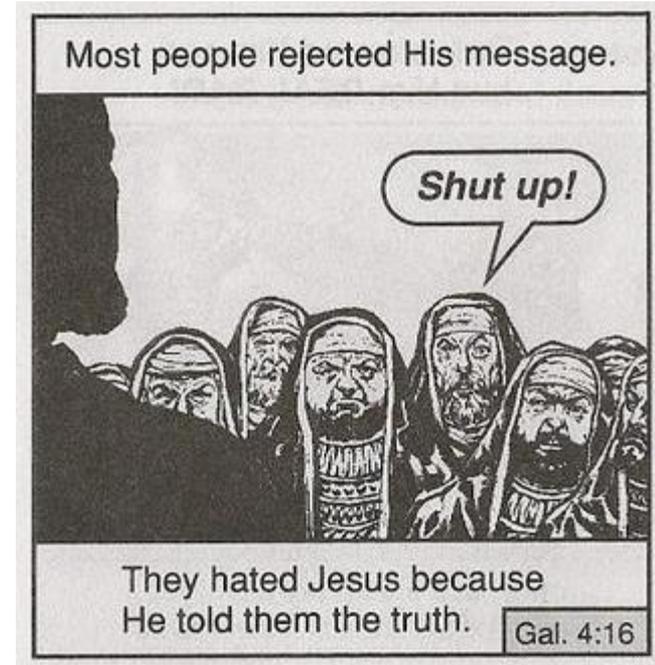
Ancient means very old

Answers

- *Obsolete* is when something is no longer useful or relevant to our lives today. For example, Morse Code is largely obsolete, because we have new ways of communicating globally.
- Something can be *ancient* but still useful today; for example, many building techniques and farming practises are still used today as they are good ways of doing things.
- Some people feel that religion is *obsolete* because it doesn't apply to modern situations or contains *outdated* ways of treating social problems. They may also disagree with the strict rules or harsh punishments of a religion and feel that they are no longer appropriate.

Why do people start NRMs?

- All religions started off as NRMs, before becoming accepted and followed by lots of people.
- Jesus Christ started a NRM when he broke away from accepted Jewish teachings and began preaching a new way of being religious. This NRM eventually became accepted as an established religion and is now the biggest religion worldwide!
- The prophet Mohammed started a NRM when he began preaching the message of the Qur'an. At first, many people were hostile to these new ideas but over time they became accepted and were written down and studied.



Why do people start NRMs?

Look through the following list of reasons why people start NRMs and put them in order from 1 – 9 of which you feel are the most important.

- Unhappy with existing religious beliefs / practises.
- Migrated to a new area where their beliefs are not mainstream.
- Feel inspired by God to lead a new movement.
- Feel that people are not following the religion correctly.
- They are converted by friends, family or the media.
- They are looking for more companionship and a shared purpose.
- They want to go back to older or more traditional ways that they feel have been lost.
- They dislike modern society and wish to remove themselves from it.
- They are disillusioned with science and look to religion to answer their questions.

Designing a new religion

Put yourself into the mind of the follower of a New Religious Movement and design your own religion.

You are not allowed to name it after yourself and it has nothing to do with you as a person.

Think about what people might need, something that current religions don't necessarily offer.

Challenge Task:

How might a New Religious Movement become dangerous? Give examples in your answer.

Task: Design your own Religion

The name of the religion is: _____

The Five Rules All Followers Must Obey...

1. Draw the symbol of your religion in this box. Why did you choose the design and what does it represent?

Three things we believe about life, the world, God(s) and/or the universe are:

This religion is better than other because:

The 4 main values of the religion are...

The reasons people would want to join the religion are...

Other facts and details...

Plenary

1. Write a definition for New Religious Movements.
2. Why might New Religious Movements have begun?
3. Why might so many people want to belong to them?

