Your notes

KS3 Religious Education: revision notes

Sikhism

Contents

1. Beliefs and the Gurus
2. Equality and service
3. The 5 Ks and festivals
4. Key terms
5. Quick questions
6. What to do next

Beliefs and the Gurus

- Sikhism began in the Punjab in India with **Guru Nanak** (born 1469). There were Ten Gurus in human form.
- Sikhs believe in one God (**Ik Onkar**, "there is one God"), who is the creator and is within everyone.
- The tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, founded the **Khalsa** (the community of committed Sikhs) at Vaisakhi in 1699. He declared that after him the holy book would be the Guru.
- The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the holy book and is treated as a living Guru.

Equality and service

- Sikhs believe everyone is equal, whatever their gender, caste or religion.
- **Sewa** is selfless service to others.
- Every **gurdwara** (Sikh place of worship) has a **langar**: a free kitchen where anyone can eat, sitting together as equals.

The 5 Ks and festivals

- Members of the **Khalsa** wear the 5 Ks: kesh (uncut hair, often covered by a turban), kara (a steel bracelet), kanga (a wooden comb), kachera (cotton shorts worn as underwear) and kirpan (a short sword, a symbol of standing up for justice).
- Vaisakhi remembers the founding of the **Khalsa**. Sikhs also celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas at the same time as Diwali.

Key terms

Guru Nanak	The first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Sikh holy book, treated as a living Guru.

© LycoLearn · lycolearn.co.uk · Free GCSE and KS3 revision

Gurdwara	A Sikh place of worship.
Langar	The free kitchen in a gurdwara.
Sewa	Selfless service to others.
Khalsa	The community of committed Sikhs.
Ik Onkar	"There is one God".

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Who founded Sikhism?
2. What is the Sikh holy book?
3. What is a langar?
4. What is sewa?
5. Which of the 5 Ks is a steel bracelet?
6. What is the Khalsa?
7. How many human Gurus were there in Sikhism?
8. What is kesh?

Answers

1. Guru Nanak
2. The Guru Granth Sahib
3. A free kitchen in a gurdwara
4. Selfless service to others
5. Kara
6. The community of committed Sikhs
7. Ten
8. Uncut hair

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

Your notes