

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

BELIEF SYSTEMS

1) Match the Word to its definition.

Belief	a belief that some objects or actions are lucky or unlucky, or that they cause events to happen, based on old ideas of magic
Faith	a strong feeling of trust or confidence in someone or something
Superstition	the information, skills, and understanding that you have gained through learning or experience
Knowledge	a strong belief in the honesty, goodness etc. of someone or something
Trust	the feeling that something is definitely true or definitely exists

2) Write the words into the correct gap.

Activity 3

1. Use the words on the right to fill in the gaps

Most of us want the freedom to believe whatever we want. But there must be some restrictions. If we believe in religious freedom for ourselves, we must _____ other people's religious views. This includes the idea that we should not _____ against other people on the basis of their beliefs, for example when choosing employees.

When should our beliefs be restricted by the facts? Religious belief is characterised by _____, so religious believers sometimes hold their beliefs despite the _____. _____, on the other hand, tend to believe only what can be supported by facts and evidence. It is important to be able to _____ clearly between beliefs which need _____ and those which do not. For instance, it would not make sense at all to believe that the sky is green.

distinguish

discriminate

faith

scientists

proof

tolerate

facts

3) Document 1: Categorize the elements related to faith and Intelligence. Click on the correct word.

- The creation: INTELLECT/ FAITH
- Evolution: INTELLECT/ FAITH
- Sense of oneness with the divine: INTELLECT/ FAITH
- It is the ability of the mind to come to a correct conclusion about what is real or true
INTELLECT/ FAITH
- The works of the mind. INTELLECT/ FAITH
- Strong through the Spirit. INTELLECT/ FAITH
- Ability to understand complex ideas, to adapt effectively to the environment, to learn from experience, to engage in various forms of reasoning, to overcome obstacles by taking thought. INTELLECT/ FAITH
- It is a strong, unshakable belief in something, specifically belief without proof or evidence. INTELLECT/ FAITH

Document 1



4) Document 2: Solve the true or false

The Placebo Effect is well known in medicine. A patient is told that they are given medication, but they are actually given a pill with no medical benefits. The patient gets better because they believe they are being healed.

In a recent study, different groups were given different information about the effects of an energy drink on mental performance. They were asked to drink and then attempt a word test. The results were as follows:

Group	Information given about the drink	Score
Control group	No information given	7 words
Group 1	The drink provides a slight improvement to mental performance.	5-6 words
Group 2	The drink provides a slight improvement, and was bought at a discount for \$0.89	4 words
Group 3	The drink provides a significant improvement to mental performance.	8-9 words
Group 4	The drink provides a significant improvement to mental performance and was bought at the full price of \$1.89.	10+ words

- ✓ The placebo effect is used as a technique to prove the efficiency of products in the market. TRUE/ FALSE
- ✓ The power of the mind is crucial in the placebo effect. TRUE/ FALSE
- ✓ The result shows that the placebo effect didn't work. TRUE/ FALSE
- ✓ Mental performance increased due to the consumption of the of the drink. TRUE/ FALSE
- ✓ People believe that if they pay full price, the product is of a better quality. TRUE/ FALSE
- ✓ The more information the participants receive, the more influenced they are. TRUE/ FALSE

5) **Document 3: Read and match. Who said what?**

Document 3

How far should we tolerate other people's beliefs? The answer here is not simple. Our behaviour depends on our beliefs. This goes right from cleaning our teeth because we believe that will keep them healthy, through looking after family members because we believe it is right to do so, to our beliefs about religion. And our beliefs affect the way we react to other people.

This means that beliefs are not entirely private. For example, if someone is preaching hatred and violence against other people, this is a public matter. Their beliefs affect me if it leads to violence in my neighbourhood. So I have the right to object to their beliefs.

But where do we draw the line between tolerance and intolerance? For me, we shouldn't tolerate beliefs that cause harm. Beliefs can cause harm by promoting or justifying harm towards others, or even just by stopping people thinking about the world with an open mind.

@deepthinker

This is fine, but you're confusing belief and action. It's the action of preaching hatred and violence that causes harm.

@Suki

This is all very well, but can we agree on harm? Let's say my beliefs about motherhood lead me to report a mother for leaving her tiny children alone while she goes out. The children are taken from the mother. Have my beliefs led me to do good or harm?

@thatsallthereis

You all are wishy-washy liberals. The facts are simple: either we tolerate all beliefs, or we tolerate none. Then we would descend into a tyranny of the mind, where there can be no freedom. This would lead to the loss of all that we believe in, all political advances, scientific progress and technological breakthroughs.

Who said....

- Acting upon our beliefs is what causes harm.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.
- There are reasons why we can object to other people's beliefs.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.
- There is no definite line that separates the good or harm that my belief may cause.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.
- The limit to tolerance is the harm you may cause to others.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.
- If we don't tolerate all beliefs, then we would lose all freedom.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.
- Everything we do is based on what we believe to be good or beneficial.
Author/ Deepthinker / Suki / That's all there is.

6) Document 4: Read and solve the multiple choice.

Document 4

British public wrong about nearly everything

A new survey for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London shows public opinion is repeatedly off the mark on issues including crime, benefit fraud and immigration.

The research, carried out by Ipsos Mori from a phone survey of 1,015 people aged 16 to 75, lists ten misconceptions held by the British public. Among the biggest misconceptions are:

- Benefit fraud: the public think that £24 of every £100 of benefits is fraudulently claimed. Official estimates are that just 70 pence in every £100 is fraudulent - so the public conception is out by a factor of 34.
- Immigration: some 31 per cent of the population is thought to consist of recent immigrants, when the figure is actually 13 per cent. Even including illegal immigrants, the figure is only about 15 per cent. On the issue of ethnicity, black and Asian people are thought to make up 30 per cent of the population, when the figure is closer to 11 per cent.
- Crime: some 58 per cent of people do not believe crime is falling, when the Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that incidents of crime were 19 per cent lower in 2012 than in 2006/07 and 53 per cent lower than in 1995. Some 51 per cent think violent crime is rising, when it has fallen from almost 2.5 million incidents in 2006/07 to under 2 million in 2012.

- Teen pregnancy is thought to be 25 times higher than the official estimates: 15 per cent of girls under 16 are thought to become pregnant every year, when official figures say the amount is closer to 0.6 per cent.

Among the other surprising figures are that 26 per cent of people think foreign aid is in the top three items the Government spends money on (it actually makes up just 1.1 per cent of expenditure), and that 29 per cent of people think more is spent on Jobseekers' Allowance than pensions.

In fact we spend 15 times more on pensions - £4.9 billion on JSA vs £74.2 billion on pensions.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-public-wrong-about-nearly-everything-survey-shows-8697021.html>

Choose the correct option

The main idea of the text is to prove:

- a) How inconsistent our beliefs are.
- b) How uninformed British people are.
- c) How the media influence British beliefs.

The research lists 10...

- a) facts that the British believe to be true but they are ignoring all the viewpoints.
- b) Pieces incorrect information, especially because they were deliberately created to deceive people (misinformed).
- c) Topics which contain ideas that are wrong or untrue, but which people believe because they do not understand the subject properly.

The research shows that ...

- a) People believe that immigration is a problem.
- b) People believe that there are more immigrants than there really are.
- c) People believe that 30% of the illegal immigrants are black or Asian.

The research shows that ..

- a) Crime in England and Wales is dwindling because of the.
- b) Crime in England and Wales has been reducing in since 2012.
- c) 58% of the population do not believe that crime has been reducing significantly.