

6. Challenges

Challenges facing religious thought from areas such as science, secularisation, migration and multi-cultural societies and changing gender roles

Topic	Content	Key Knowledge
The Challenge of Secularism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rise of secularism and secularisation, and the views that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God is an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment ○ Christianity should play no part in public life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the views of Freud and Dawkins that society would be happier without Christianity as it is infantile, repressive and causes conflict • the views of secular humanists that Christian belief is personal and should play no part in public life, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ education and schools ○ government and the state
	<p>Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to the challenge of secularism, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether or not spiritual values are just human values • whether or not there is evidence that Christianity is a major cause of personal and social problems • whether secularism and secularisation are opportunities for Christianity to develop new ways of thinking and acting • whether Christianity is, or should be, a significant contributor to society's culture and values 	
	<p>Contextual references</p> <p><i>For reference, the ideas of Dawkins and Freud listed above can be found in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freud, S. <i>The Future of an Illusion</i> • Dawkins, R. <i>The God Delusion</i>, Chapter 9 <p>Suggested scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority</p> <p><i>Learners will be given credit for referring to any appropriate scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority, however the following examples may prove useful</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ford, D. (2011) <i>The Future of Christian Theology</i>, Wiley-Blackwell, Chapters 3 and 6 • British Humanist Society, https://humanism.org.uk/ • Dawson, C. (1956) 'The Challenge of Secularism' in <i>Catholic World</i>, also online http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/education/catholic-contributions/the-challenge-of-secularism.html 	