

# UNIT 11

## Religion and Belief

### I. Teaching Plan (4 Teaching Hours)

PART A 20Ms

PART B 70Ms

PART C 70Ms

PART D 40Ms

Procedures	Duration (mins)	Objectives	Key Points
Part A Lead in	20	To familiarize students with the topic of the unit with one clip of video	Make sure that Ss get a clear first understanding of the religions in the world
Part B Section 1	15	To give an overview of religion in the UK	1. Overview of religions in the world 2. The main religions in the UK
Part B Section 2	15	To introduce the history of religions in the UK	1. The history of religion in the UK 2. Basic facts about religion in the UK
Part B Section 3	20	To teach Ss the impacts of religion on British people through examples	1. The impacts of religion on British people 2. Examples to illustrate these features
Part B Section 4	20	To help Ss to understand the modern development of religion in the UK	The basic facts of religion in modern times

Procedures	Duration (mins)	Objectives	Key Points
Part C Section 1	15	To acquaint Ss with religion in the US	1. A general introduction to religion in the US 2. The main religions in the US
Part C Section 2	15	To introduce history of religion in the US	1. The history of religion in the US 2. Check on students' short-time memory
Part C Section 3	20	To acquaint Ss with the influence of religion in the US	A clear knowledge of the basic influence of the US religions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-improvement</li> <li>• Material Success, Hard Work, and Self-Discipline</li> <li>• Volunteerism and Humanitarianism</li> </ul>
Part C Section 4	20	To help Ss to understand religious development in America Society	1. Six major influences of religion on American society 2. Some social beliefs of Americans
Part D Hands on	In-class Presentation 40	Synthesizing information	How to find relevant and reliable materials How to synthesize materials

## II. Instructional Design

PART A LEAD IN	
Section 1	<b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Video Watching, Matching, Blank filling Watch the video clip and finish the following two exercises.
	<b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook and a Video Clip
	<b>Dos and Don'ts:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make sure students get the main information from the video.</li> <li>2. The tutor should provide follow-up questions after the interest of Ss in the topic is triggered.</li> </ol>

PART B FOCUS ON THE UK	
Section 1	<b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Facts Collecting 1. The tutor sets a time limit for Ss to look for the designated information. 2. The tutor should help the Ss to get an overview of religions.
	<b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook
	<b>Dos and Don'ts:</b> 1. Make sure that Ss realize that religion plays a very important part in many people's lives. 2. Help Ss to know the basic facts and the definition of religion.
Section 2	<b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Reading and Reacting: 1. The tutor might divide the Ss into 5 groups and give Ss a set amount of time for them to read about the main five religions in the world. Competition among students may be organized to lighten up the mood. 2. Two Ss from each group are selected. One picks up one religion, and the other should explain the fact on spot. 3. The tutor asks Ss to write down major facts within 1 min.
	<b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook, Cards with Key Words Ss can illustrate the facts with the help of the cards.
	<b>Dos and Don'ts:</b> The tutor should set the rules of the activity loud and clear, as the activity helps Ss to learn facts with fun.
Section 3	<b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Thinking Twice 1. The tutor should draw Ss' attention back to what they have watched in the Lead in and check their first impression of religion. 2. The tutor should have Ss to sum up the main idea of the different paragraphs.
	<b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook
	<b>Dos and Don'ts:</b> 1. Make sure Ss get a full understanding of the effect of religion. 2. More extensive readings from news can be recommended for Ss who are interested to dig up things more.
Section 4	<b>Tasks / Activities:</b> True or False Questions, Drawing Charts The tutor may assign different exercises to different groups so as to save time and give Ss a focus within a short period of time.
	<b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook

PART B FOCUS ON THE UK	
	<p><b>Dos and Don'ts:</b></p> <p>The tutor should encourage Ss to distinguish facts and opinions and also ask them to read more about it.</p>
PART C FOCUS ON THE US	
Section 1	<p><b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Reading Comprehension, True or False Questions, Group Discussion</p> <p>Make sure Ss understand the features of the American religions.</p>
	<p><b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook</p>
	<p><b>Dos and Don'ts:</b></p> <p>The tutor helps Ss to go through this section quickly on the topic of religion in the US.</p>
Section 2	<p><b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Reading Comprehension, True or False Questions, Filling in the Blanks</p> <p>Make sure Ss understand the function of the Church of England in the US.</p>
	<p><b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The textbook</p>
	<p><b>Dos and Don'ts:</b></p> <p>The tutor helps Ss to have a clear understanding of the history of the religion with the textbook.</p>
Section 3	<p><b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Short-time Memory Testing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The tutor gives Ss time to remember the major features of religion in the US.</li> <li>2. Ask Ss to retell the features without referring to the textbook.</li> <li>3. Give Ss time to compare the influence of religions in the US with that in the UK.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook</p>
	<p><b>Dos and Don'ts:</b></p> <p>The tutor should encourage Ss to think about why the impacts of the same religion are different in the US and the UK.</p>
Section 4	<p><b>Tasks / Activities:</b> Summarizing, Group Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ss summarize the positive impacts of religion on the basis of the text.</li> <li>2. Ss discuss in groups to list the negative impacts of religion.</li> <li>3. Ss discuss in groups to decide whether religion in general is more positive or negative.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Resources/ Equipment:</b> The Textbook</p>
	<p><b>Dos and Don'ts:</b></p> <p>The tutor should help Ss to think critically about the impacts of religion.</p>

## PART D HANDS ON

**Project****Research procedures****Step 1:**

Search the Internet for materials that show, reflect or exemplify the impacts of the major religion or belief system in ABC countries. The materials could be in any form, such as texts, pictures, infographics, video clips, and they can be drawn from various sources such as books, newspapers, TV programs, movies, blogs, microblogs, videos, etc.

**Step 2:**

Check upon the reliability of these materials. Delete those untruthful ones and at the same time take notes on how and why these are not true.

**Step 3:**

Fill in the table with what you get. You need to provide at least three examples for each of the aspect listed in the table. Acknowledge the source when necessary. Some examples are already done for you.

**Step 4:**

Bring the results of your research to the class and share them with your fellow students. Be prepared to be challenged for the reliability of your notes.

**Step 5:**

Bring the results of your research to the class and share them with your fellow students. Be prepared to be challenged for the reliability of your notes.

**Resources/ Equipment: The Textbook, The Internet****Some useful websites**

1. <http://www.faithfacts.org/christ-and-the-culture/the-impact-of-christianity>
2. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/epiphenom/2010/04/ethical-dilemma-for-doctors-in.html>
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith\\_school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith_school)
4. <http://www.faithfacts.org/christ-and-the-culture/the-impact-of-christianity>

**Dos and Don'ts:**

1. The tutor may use the social networking devices to monitor each step of the research.
2. The tutor asks Ss to hand in certain feedback or half-finished work to make sure Ss can finish the research in time as required.

# III. Keys & References

## PART A

### Lead in

#### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please watch a short video clip about the major religions in the world and match the pictures and symbols with the religions.

Pictures

(1) Judaism (2) Islam (3) Hinduism (4) Buddhism (5) Christianity

Symbols

(1) Christianity (2) Islam (3) Hinduism (4) Buddhism (5) Judaism

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#### EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please watch the video clip again and fill in the blanks with what you have learned from the video.

Religion	Christianity	Islam	Buddhism	Hinduism	Judaism
Founder	Jesus Christ	Muhammad	Siddhartha Gautama, called the Buddha	Hinduism has no founder	The Hebrew leader Abraham
Name of God(s)	Jesus Christ	One, Allah	Buddhas		God
Holy Book	The Bible	The Koran (Qu'ran)	The most important are the Tripitaka, the Mahayana Sutras, Tantra, and Zen texts	The most ancient are the four Vedas.	The most important are the Torah, or the first five books of Moses.

Religion	Christianity	Islam	Buddhism	Hinduism	Judaism
Major Beliefs	Jesus taught love of God and neighbor and a concern for justice.	The Five Pillars, or main duties, are: profession of faith; prayer 5 times a day; charitable giving; fasting during the month of Ramadan; and pilgrimage to Mecca at least once.	The Four Noble Truths: (1) all beings suffer; (2) desire—for possessions, power, and so on—causes suffering; (3) desire can be overcome; and (4) the path that leads away from desire is the Eightfold Path (the Middle Way).	Reincarnation states that all living things are caught in a cycle of death and rebirth. Life is ruled by the laws of karma, in which rebirth depends on moral behavior	Jews believe in the laws of God and the words of the prophets. In Judaism, however, actions are more important than beliefs.

## PART B

# Focus on the UK

## Section 1

### A General Introduction: The Five Main Religions in the UK

#### TEXT A

#### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

- Christianity remains the world's biggest religion. Britain is traditionally a Christian state and most people living in Britain are Christian. ( T )

2. According to the 2001 Census there are 42,557 Muslims living in Scotland, making it the second most popular religion in this country. ( F )
3. Hinduism is over 3000 years old, although elements of the faith are considered to have been revealed 25,000 years ago. ( T )
4. Judaism is one of the oldest religions and there are around 15 million followers of Judaism across the world. ( F )
5. Sikhism is one of the major world religions. It emerged in 16th and 17th century in India. ( T )

## EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please discuss in groups to find out the similarities and differences between the concepts of God in the five religions.

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Open. Possible similarities and differences include the following.

Similarities

1. There is only one God in Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. In other words, the four religions are all monotheistic.
2. The God is omniscient and omnipotent in the above four religions.
3. The Christian God, the Islamic God and the Judaist God all gave revelation to human beings through prophets or angles.

Differences

1. Hinduism is polytheistic, whereas the other four are all monotheistic.
2. Unlike the Islamic, the Judaist and the Sikhi counterpart, the Christian God consists of three “persons”: God the Father, God the Son, and The Holy Spirit.
3. The Sikh God is beyond description.



## Section 2

# The History of Religion in England

### TEXT B

#### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. With over 170 distinct religions counted, the religious make-up of the UK is diverse, complex and multicultural. ( T )
2. Religion in Britain has suffered an immense general decline since the 1960s. ( F )
3. During the reign of Henry VIII, England broke from the Roman Catholic Church to form the Anglican Church. ( T )
4. In history, religion had great effects on social life and behavior. ( T )
5. In modern society, religion also plays an important role as it did in the 19th century in national life. ( F )

#### EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please read the table below carefully and draw some conclusions about the change in the populations and percentages of practitioners of different religions in the UK.

1. Almost all minority religions that appeared in 2001 and 2011 Census results have grown over the 10 years.
  2. Christianity has plummeted. The decline is possibly caused by people ceasing to put “Christian” because they think it is the right answer; and putting, correctly “no religion” instead.
- \* Please note that in the 2001 Census, the population was 52.4 million; in the 2011 one it was 56.1 million, which is a 7% increase. Any category in these results that has not grown by 7% has actually shrunk, in terms of its penetration of the populace.

## Section 3

### The Influence of Religion in the UK

#### ► TEXT C

##### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please fill in the blanks with the information in Text C.

1. One single general trend can be brought out of all the statistics of religious belief in the UK: Our population is mostly irreligious, innocent and ignorant of religion.
2. The British public, both adults and children, are almost wholly ignorant of the basic facts surrounding Christianity and other world religions.

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##### EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please analyze the following table and summarize the characteristics of influence of religion in the UK. You need to use the data in the table to support your conclusions.

1. Basically, the table shows that though Christianity is the established religion in the UK, a majority of Britons actually do not believe in any kind of God. The percentage of religious people in the UK is less than that in Italy, Spain, Germany and USA, as indicated by the 2006 poll of 12,507 people.
2. The 2003 and 2011 survey of adults and the 2006 poll of teenagers seem to suggest that adults are generally more religious than teenagers.

## Section 4

### The Modern Development of Religion in the UK

#### TEXT D

#### EXERCISE 1



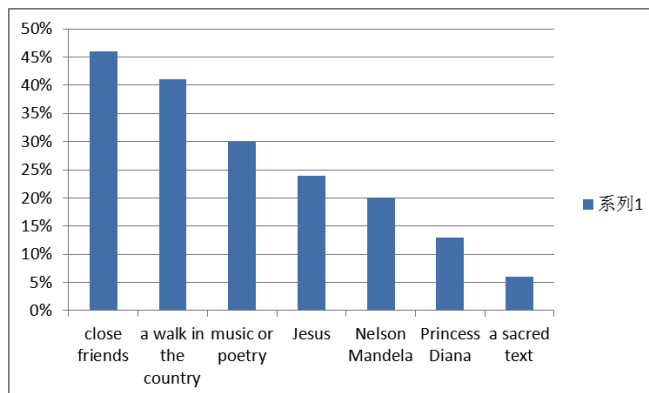
**Directions:** Please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. Self-disclosure polls of church attendance are generally *three times as high* as reality. ( F )
2. The fastest rates of decline were among Roman Catholics and Methodists; whereas the Pentecostal Churches showed significant growth over the period. ( T )
3. In 2003, 20% said they were a practicing member of an organized religion, 15% they were *members* of a world religion. ( F )
4. Most other large, modern polls indicate that less than 60% of the British believe in a god. ( F )
5. Although in 2003, 60% believed in God, only 52% believed in Heaven so it is clear that many theists are neither mainstream Muslims or Christians. ( T )

#### Exercise 2



**Directions:** Please draw a bar chart to show what were considered as inspirational by British people according to the 2003 poll mentioned in Text D.



### EXERCISE 3



**Directions:** Work in groups. Each group member is going to write down at least five things that she or he regards as inspirational. Then the group needs to collect the answers and draw a bar chart on the basis of the answers. Finally, the group members need to compare and contrast the chart with the chart they drew in Exercise 2.

Open.

## PART C

# Focus on the US

### Section 1

## A General Introduction of Religion in the US

### ►► TEXT E

### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. Christianity is by far the largest religion in the United States; more than three-quarters of Americans identify as Christians. ( T )
2. A little more than half of us identify as **Protestants**, about 23 percent as **Catholic** and about 2 percent as **Mormon**. ( T )
3. Seven percent of Americans say they're Methodists (including African Methodists and United Methodists); 5 percent, Lutherans. ( F )
4. Thirty-seven percent of all Christians describe themselves as born-again or evangelical; that includes nearly 2/3 of all Protestants (47 percent), as well as a small share (14 percent) of Catholics. ( F )
5. There's an enormous political difference between evangelical and non-evangelical Protestants on some issues. ( T )

## EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please search on the Internet to find out why most Evangelical Protestants think abortion should be illegal. Then discuss in groups or pairs whether you agree with them.

Evangelical Protestants oppose abortion because they think *Bible* forbids it. Abortion is in direct defiance of the commonly accepted idea of the sanctity of human life.

Possible arguments for and against abortion are listed below.

Pro-life (Arguments Against Abortion)

1. Since life begins at conception, abortion is akin to murder as it is the act of taking human life.
2. No civilized society permits one human to intentionally harm or take the life of another human without punishment, and abortion is no different.
3. Adoption is a viable alternative to abortion and accomplishes the same result. And with 1.5 million American families wanting to adopt a child, there is no such thing as an unwanted child.
4. An abortion can result in medical complications later in life; the risk of ectopic pregnancies doubles, and the chance of a miscarriage and pelvic inflammatory disease also increases.
5. In the instance of rape and incest, proper medical care can ensure that a woman will not get pregnant. Abortion punishes the unborn child who committed no crime; instead, it is the perpetrator who should be punished.
6. Abortion should not be used as another form of contraception.
7. For women who demand complete control of their body, control should include preventing the risk of unwanted pregnancy through the responsible use of contraception or, if that is not possible, through abstinence.
8. Many Americans who pay taxes are opposed to abortion, therefore it's morally wrong to use tax dollars to fund abortion.
9. Those who choose abortions are often minors or young women with insufficient life experience to understand fully what they are doing. Many have lifelong regrets afterwards.
10. Abortion frequently causes intense psychological pain and stress.

Pro-Choice (Arguments For Abortion)

1. Nearly all abortions take place in the first trimester, when a fetus cannot exist independent of the mother. As it is attached by the placenta and

umbilical cord, its health is dependent on her health, and cannot be regarded as a separate entity as it cannot exist outside her womb.

2. The concept of personhood is different from the concept of human life. Human life occurs at conception, but fertilized eggs used for in vitro fertilization are also human lives and those not implanted are routinely thrown away. Is this murder, and if not, then how is abortion murder?
3. Adoption is not an alternative to abortion, because it remains the woman's choice whether or not to give her child up for adoption. Statistics show that very few women who give birth choose to give up their babies — less than 3% of white unmarried women and less than 2% of black unmarried women.
4. Abortion is a safe medical procedure. The vast majority of women — 88% — who have an abortion do so in their first trimester. Medical abortions have less than 0.5% risk of serious complications and do not affect a woman's health or future ability to become pregnant or give birth.
5. In the case of rape or incest, forcing a woman made pregnant by this violent act would cause further psychological harm to the victim. Often a woman is too afraid to speak up or is unaware she is pregnant, thus the morning after pill is ineffective in these situations.
6. Abortion is not used as a form of contraception. Pregnancy can occur even with responsible contraceptive use. Only 8% of women who have abortions do not use any form of birth control, and that is due more to individual carelessness than to the availability of abortion.
7. The ability of a woman to have control of her body is critical to civil rights. Take away her reproductive choice and you step onto a slippery slope. If the government can force a woman to continue a pregnancy, what about forcing a woman to use contraception or undergo sterilization?
8. Taxpayer dollars are used to enable poor women to access the same medical services as rich women, and abortion is one of these services. Funding abortion is no different from funding a war in the Mideast. For those who are opposed, the place to express outrage is in the voting booth.
9. Teenagers who become mothers have grim prospects for the future. They are much more likely to leave of school; receive inadequate prenatal care; rely on public assistance to raise a child; develop health problems; or end up divorced.
10. Like any other difficult situation, abortion creates stress. Yet the American Psychological Association found that stress was greatest prior to an abortion, and that there was no evidence of post-abortion syndrome.

## TEXT F

**References**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/personal/archive/2008/08/evangelicals-catholics-and-abortion/55484/>

[http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/political-animal-a/2013\\_02/protestants\\_and\\_abortion042929.php](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/political-animal-a/2013_02/protestants_and_abortion042929.php)

<http://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/progressiverevival/2008/08/evangelicals-and-abortion.html>

<http://womensissues.about.com/od/reproductiverights/a/AbortionArgumen.htm>

## Section 2

### History of Religion in the US

**Exercise 1**

**Directions:** Please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. The Puritans came to the New England colonies to escape religious persecution. ( T )
2. Congregationalists came to New England and established the Plymouth Colony in 1621. ( F )
3. The tap root of Methodism was a group of Oxford University students, amongst whom were its founders, John and Charles Wesley. ( T )
4. In no other British Christian denomination did national origin play such an important role in its history as the Lutheran Church. ( F )
5. Founded in 1647 by American preacher George Fox, the Society of Friends emphasized a direct relationship with God. One's conscience, not the Bible, was the ultimate authority on morals and actions. ( F )

**EXERCISE 2**

**Directions:** Please fill in the blanks with the information in Text F.

1. The issue of religious freedom has played a significant role in the history of the United States and the remainder of North America. Europeans came

to America to escape religious oppression and forced beliefs by such state-affiliated Christian churches as the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England.

2. The Puritans also were responsible for the first free schooling in America and established the first American college, Harvard College, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

## Section 3

### Influence of Religion in the US

## ►► TEXT G

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### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please fill in the blanks with the information in Text G.

1. Religion provides a personal identity, social contacts, and important rituals.
2. In addition, Americans attend thousands of self- help seminars and support group meetings to help them stop smoking or drinking, lose weight, be better parents, have happier relationships, and develop self-confidence.
3. The accumulation of wealth is not considered evil unless it leads to a life of idleness and sin.
4. The idea of self-improvement includes more than achieving material gain through hard work and self-discipline.
5. Many businesses encourage their employees to do volunteer work, and individuals may get tax deductions for money given to charity.

### EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Choose the correct answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.  
DCCBC



### EXERCISE 3



**Directions:** Please compare and contrast the influence of religion in the UK and that in the US on the basis of what you have learned from Text C and Text G.

Though it is the biggest religion in both countries, Christianity has different impacts on British and American people.

1. The percentage of “true” Christians or religious people in general is much higher in the US than that in the UK, as revealed by the data given in Text C. In this sense, religion has more influence in the US.
2. Religion plays a more important role in the US than in the UK, also because it provides a personal identity, social contacts, and rituals that mark life’s most important events in the US, whereas in the UK average person generally lacks concerns for religious matters.

## Section 4

### Modern Development of Religion in the US

#### ►► TEXT H

### EXERCISE 1



**Directions:** Please fill the blanks with a sentence or a phrase to summarize the each part of Text C.

Part 1: Lowering your blood pressure

Part 2: Getting more preventive care

Part 3: Recovering better from depression

Part 4: Soothing anxiety

Part 5: Raising self-esteem (if you live in the right place)

Part 6: Boosting happiness

Part 7: Possibly making you fat

Part 8: Helping you resist junk food

## EXERCISE 2



**Directions:** Please work in groups to list some negative impacts of religion, and then decide whether, overall speaking, religion is more positive or more negative.

Open. Possible negative impacts are provided below.

1. Religion has been used as a tool to maintain political dominance of the world order.
2. Religion has been one of the biggest obstructions to scientific development and success.
3. Medical science, specially, has faced some of the most disgusting attacks from religious fanatics hiding behind facades of morality and righteousness.
4. Religious leaders have used their dogma to oppress, victimize and terrorize those who refuse to subscribe to their particular brand of bigotry.

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## PART D

# Hands on

**Directions:** Work in groups of four or five. Each group is going to conduct a comparative study on the impacts of the major religion or belief system on different aspects of culture and society in ABC countries. You may use the following table to help you.



### Step 1

Search your textbook, the Internet or other sources for materials that show, reflect or exemplify the impacts of the major religion or belief system in ABC countries. The materials could be in any form, such as texts, pictures, infographics, video clips, and they can be drawn from various sources such as books, newspapers, TV programs, movies, blogs, microblogs, videos, etc.

**Step 2**

Check upon the reliability of these materials. Delete those untruthful ones and at the same time take notes on how and why these are not true.

**Step 3**

Fill in the table with what you get. You need to provide at least three examples for each of the aspect listed in the table. Acknowledge the source when necessary. Some examples are already done for you.

**Step 4**

Bring the results of your research to the class and share them with your fellow students. Be prepared to be challenged for the reliability of your notes.

**Useful resources**

1. <http://www.faithfacts.org/christ-and-the-culture/the-impact-of-christianity>
2. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/epiphenom/2010/04/ethical-dilemma-for-doctors-in.html>
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith\\_school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith_school)
4. <http://www.faithfacts.org/christ-and-the-culture/the-impact-of-christianity>

## IV. Online Reading Materials

### PART A Religion and Religious Beliefs

#### Section 1 Reasons for Adherence to Religion

#### Section 2 Introduction to Christianity

#### Section 3 *The Bible*

#### Section 4 What Is Christianity, Jesus, Religion, God?

## **PART B Religion and Belief in the UK and US**

### **Section 1 History of Religion in the United Kingdom**

### **Section 2 Religion in the United States**

### **Section 3 The Influence of Religion on American Value**

### **Section 4 Why I Hate Religion, but Love Jesus?**