

002

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Section

Chapter 2 : Religious Beliefs and Cultural Diversity

A. Chapter 2 : Religious Beliefs and Cultural Diversity

The role of religion in international relations and its relationship with conflict and with peacebuilding is increasingly acknowledged but remains disputed. Secular resistance to incorporating religion in public affairs has given way to numerous academic publications, discussion forums and public initiatives. Governments and international organisations are increasingly willing to examine religion and incorporate it, to some degree, when addressing emerging challenges across a number of domestic and international policy areas. However issues of how to discuss it and which parameters to use remain when engaging with the concept of religion (Adopted from "An Introduction to Inter-cultural Studies")

1. 1- Similarities between Christianity, Islam and Judaism

What are some similarities between religions? think about similarities (and differences) between two religions. It's important to decide what features (e.g., rituals, sacred

books, prayers, etc.) you will examine in order to compare the religions.

1. With a partner or in a small group, first choose two religions to contrast (e.g., How Different?), and then choose

up to six aspects to compare (e.g. How Alike?). Compare with other pair's or group's, and discuss your choices of

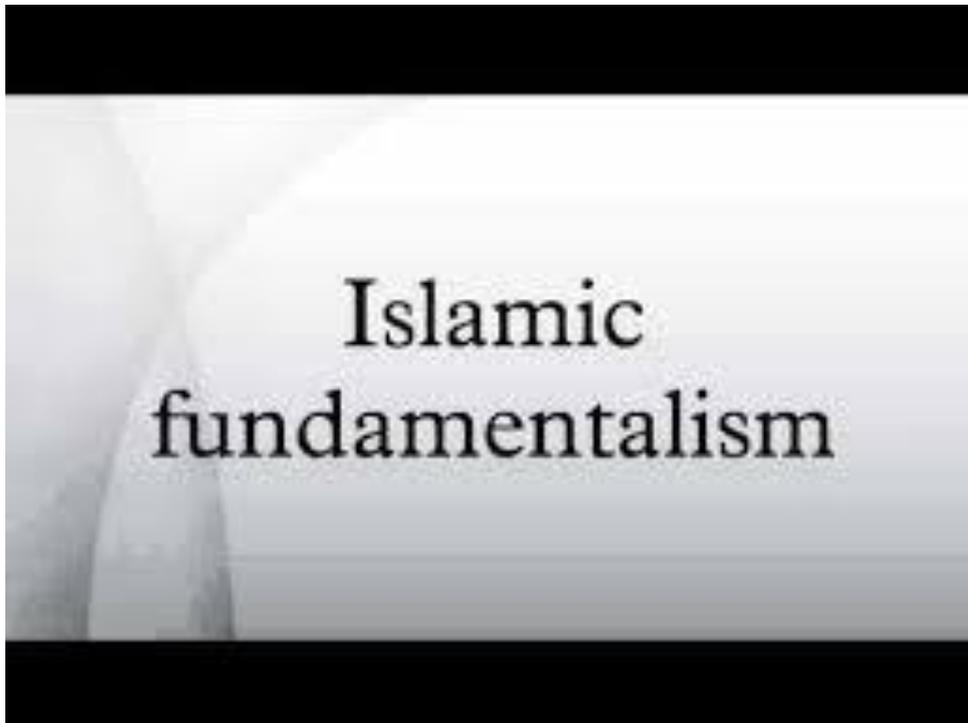
topics and criteria.

2. Reflect on the essential question: How are all religions the same? (Retrieved from britannica.com)

2. 2- Fundamentalism

a form of a religion, especially Islam or Protestant Christianity, that upholds belief in the strict, literal interpretation of scripture.

"there was religious pluralism there at a time when the rest of Europe was torn by fundamentalism"(Retrieved from britannica.com)



3. 3- Sectarianism

Sectarianism is a form of bigotry, discrimination, or hatred arising from attaching relations of inferiority and superiority to differences between subdivisions within a group. Common examples are denominations of a religion, ethnic identity, class, or region for citizens of a state and factions of a political movement. (retrieved from wikipedia.com)

SECTARIANISM

- It is narrow-minded devotion to a particular sect or group, especially adherence or excessive devotion to a particular sect, especially in religion. It is hatred arising from attaching importance to perceived differences between subdivisions within a group, such as between different denominations of a religion, class, regional or a political movement.
- Sectarianism is the effort of making your group the most superior and dominating as compared to the rest, by all fair or unfair means.

4. Exercice : Comprehension Questions

[Solution n°1 p 4]

What is the difference between fundamentalism and sectarianism ?

Solution des exercices

> **Solution n°1** (exercice p. 4)

Fundamentalism is the approach to religion that sees believers embrace an early form of their religion, to consider it beyond criticism and worthy enough to be enforced upon oneself (or others) without having to accommodate modern evidence or logical arguments against it whereas Sectarianism is to possess a limited range of interest, purpose, or scope, or to be devoted to a particularly narrow tradition or belief system.

The word sectarianism comes from the root sect, from which also comes the word section. Often, religious or political groups split into smaller "sections" called "sects." Ideological conflicts can arise among these smaller groups. Sometimes, those who carefully adhere to one particular sect feel hatred or bigotry toward those of other sects, no matter how closely related their ideologies are. (Retrieved from britannica.com)