

Knowledge Organiser: Humanism

The Happy Human Logo



Humanism is an approach to life which encourages ethical and fulfilling living on the basis of reason and humanity, and rejects superstition and religion. The most immediate impact of living as a Humanist is that we believe this life is all there is - so what we do and the choices we make really count.

— Stephen Fry —

AZ QUOTES

What is it all for?

Humanists believe this is the only life we have as there is no scientific evidence for life after death.

They believe there is **no ultimate meaning in life**, rather humans decide their own meaning and purpose and this will differ from one person to the next.

Humans should try to live a full and **HAPPY** life and help others do the same.

A humanist may find purpose in spending time with their family, acquiring knowledge, or trying to make the world a better place for future generations.

How do you know what is true?

At the heart of humanism is the belief that **REASON, and EVIDENCE** are very important. They therefore believe that **SCIENCE** should be used to know what is true and what is false.

They do not believe in God as Humanists are **atheist**, believing there is no scientific evidence or proof that God exists. All truth is discovered by looking at the scientific evidence.

Humanism is a secular philosophy because it seeks to answer important questions about the world and the purpose of human life without any reference to God or the supernatural.

Humanism is a world-view that only uses science, evidence, reason and empathy to make sense of the world and to inform how they should act and care for others.

How do you tell right from wrong?

Humanists do not believe in God or other supernatural beings and so do not believe that our knowledge of right and wrong comes from religious rules such as those found in scripture (e.g. the Bible).

They believe in the **GOLDEN RULE** which is to treat others as you yourself want to be treated. They think that you should always consider how your actions will affect other people and you should think about how you would feel in someone else's shoes or situation. Imagining how others feel is called **EMPATHY**.

Humanists believe that we should use our human nature to work out how to live, and that we should use **REASON** and **EMPATHY** when deciding on the what is right and wrong.

Humanists therefore try to live a full and happy life and help others do the same and believe we should use our own human nature as a guide to good living.

Humanists **DO NOT** have an absolute morality as they do not have a strict set of rules (like the 10 commandments) that they must always follow.

Key Words

Humanist: a follower of the principles of humanism.

Reason: the power of the mind to think, understand and form judgements.

Atheist: Someone who doesn't believe in a God or gods.

Agnostic: Someone who believes you can never know for sure whether God exists or not.

Theist: Someone who believes that there is a creator God.

Empathy: to understand and share the feelings of others.

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Humanists believe this is the only life we have as there is no scientific PROOF for life after death.

They believe there is **not one meaning to life**. Humans decide their own meaning and purpose. Humans should try to live a full and **HAPPY** life and help others do the same.

How do you know what is true?

At the heart of humanism is the belief that **REASON, and FACTS** are very important. They therefore believe that **SCIENCE** should be used to know what is true and what is false.

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Key Words

Humanist: a follower of the humanism.

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