

TOK Knowledge Framework – Religious and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Scope and Application

Attempts to explain meaning of life and how to live. Incorporates a wide range of systems from polytheism to pantheism.
Difficulty in using language
Attempts to explain nature and existence of humanity for a particular group of humans.
Includes a very diverse group of people living in many regions, and sometimes widely spread.
Religious – Spiritual, based on belief but not necessary on fact - Used to unite people and bring them together – locally/ globally - Can lead us to explore our surrounding – we question answers through our curiosity to discover more - Theories and ideas to explain and explore - Myths/ Stories - Can be practical too – ethical and moral codes on how to behave - Provide knowledge on how to live - Spiritual
Indigenous – Based on experience and local surroundings - Used to unite people and bring them together – locally/ globally - Can lead us to explore our surrounding – we question answers through our curiosity to discover more - More practical knowledge to solve more everyday problems. - Based on fact(?) - Practical/

Knowledge Questions

What is a religion? Can you separate religion from culture? Is religious belief rational? What is the difference between religious feelings, religious beliefs and religious faith? Is it possible to know god? Are religious beliefs reasonable? Is faith rational or irrational? Where do religious beliefs come from? Can you think of any evidence which would convince you god does not exist? What is the value of thinking about questions that have no definite answers? How do we decide between competing claims of religious knowledge systems? Are creation myths stories to explain what science now does? Can we base our beliefs on the interpretation of a text? How reliable are oral traditions in preserving cultures? The fundamental role of sense perception in acquiring Indigenous knowledge. What can we learn from indigenous knowledge systems? Is there a conflict between Imperial governments and Indigenous Knowledge Systems? What is the role of folklore rituals and songs in Indigenous knowledge systems? What is the role of intuition as a source of religious belief? Is intuition the same as revelation? Is religious belief rational? Are reason and emotion opposites? Who has religious knowledge and on what basis can they claim this? Is faith a way of knowing? How can we know god exists? Is science compatible with religious belief? Is religious experience and knowledge beyond language? What role does emotion play in religious belief?

What is the difference between faith, belief, and knowledge?

Concepts and Language

Worship/ Karma/ Spirit/ Values/ God/ Faith/ Belief/ Sacred holy people and places/ Global/ Universal/ Heaven and Hell/ Reward and punishment/ Ritual/ Singing/ Music/ Dancing/ Intoxification/ Pilgrimage/ Prayer/ Fasting/ Cleansing/ Baptism/ Miracles/ Revelation
Concept of good and evil – links to ethics – temptation/ resistance
How we should act./ What to eat/ diet can be important
People coming together – congregation/ sharing
Importance of text. Role of language – storytelling. Use of metaphor and analogies. Some are written, some are not – the benefits and disadvantages of both.
Monotheism/ Theism/ polytheism/ pantheism/ Agnosticism/ Creationism/ Anthropomorphism/ Animism/ Argument from design/ theory of evolution
Nomad, home, honour, tradition, heritage.

Religious and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Methodology

Argument
Use of reason
Use of revelation
Sense perception
Interpretation
Authority
Value of faith
Ritual
Oral traditions
Music
Dance
Artifacts
World view
Religious - different levels of authority for example, The pope, bishops, priests, etc
Some things are secret or only for the initiated.
The role of women!
Idea of initiation/ birth/ death/ rebirth.

Historical Development

Debates between literal, fundamentalists
Conservative and Liberal approaches
Historic developments such as founding of Church of England.
Impact of and conflict with science
Language developments
Impact of imperialism, colonization and Globalisation...
What are the differences between Religious and Indigenous knowledge?
What counts as knowledge in religious and Indigenous knowledge.
The origin of religion is uncertain...
Different traditions begun, developed
Starts as a justification and explanation of why we are here develops into something else
The idea of hope – poor countries
The crusades
Extremist groups

Links to personal knowledge

Understanding ourselves
Understanding others
Views on life, death, life after death
Morality
Founding figures
Spiritual leaders
Emotional elements in belief
Attitudes and behaviours towards others
Understanding self, our place in the world
Understanding other people and other species
Importance of the initiated or elders