

Foundation Course on Religion
Unit 1
ACADEMIC STUDY OF RELIGION

1. Religion, a Global Human Activity

Right from the dawn of human consciousness, religion has asked the deepest questions humans can think about. Through the ages, it has been shaping politics, law, history, economics, science and arts. It has taken a central place in the lives of all civilizations and cultures.

While modern insights from a wide range of scientific disciplines have changed our view of the world, religion persists in variety and is often on the rise. We find it everywhere: on television and in film, music, art, literature and architecture. Our calendars are dotted with religious festivals. We encounter religion at the centre of global issues, cultural and political conflicts. We see it in the lives of the people we know and love, and in ourselves, as we live out and grapple with our own religious faith.

Scholars of religious studies do acknowledge that the struggle for religious freedom and beliefs had a complex and controversial history for centuries. It had often led to tragic conflicts and bloodshed in many parts of the world. At the same time, they also remind us that religion accounts for profound thoughts and intense spiritual experiences humanity ever had. It inspires believers to incredible commitment to human welfare – to forthright altruistic action even at the cost of one's own life. The American Academy of Religion (AAR), world's largest association of renowned scholars from all over the world in the field of religious studies, comments: "For both practitioners and observers – for everyone who wants to be informed about the world around them – religion is an intensely curious phenomenon that calls out for better understanding."¹

1.1. Academic study of religion

The academic study of religion – also known as religious studies – teaches the history, scripture, creed, code, cult, and community organization of faith communities as well as their reinterpretations over time. It is founded on the premise that religion, each in its own unique way, has always had a deep influence to the growth of civilizations and cultures. Hence all religions are treated with equal respect, and they are approached collectively as a rich subject for academic study.

The origin of the academic study of religion as we have today in many universities across the world began with the 19th century encounters that took place between renowned western and eastern scholars of religion. They were instrumental to introduce religion as part of liberal arts in centres of higher education. Their aim was to preserve and promote the rich spiritual, moral and cultural values found in the religious traditions for human advancement.

Religious Studies Research Report

L. Philip Barnes



Religious Studies Research Report:

Office of Education Research Reports, 1956-65, ED 002 747-ED 003 960 Educational Research Information Center (U.S.),1967 *Office of Education Research Reports, 1956-65* Educational Research Information Center (U.S.),1967

Research in Religious Education Leslie J. Francis,William K. Kay,William S. Campbell,1996 **Office of Education Research Reports, 1956-1965** United States. Office of Education,Educational Research Information Center (U.S.),1967

Office of Education Research Reports Educational Resources Information Center (U.S.),1967 **The Empirical Science of Religious Education** Mandy Robbins,Leslie Francis,2016-01-22 The Empirical Science of Religious Education draws together a collection of innovative articles in the field of religious education which passed the editorial scrutiny of Professor Robert Jackson over the course of his impactful fourteen year career as editor of the British Journal of Religious Education These articles have made an enormous contribution to the international literature establishing of the empirical science of religious education as a research field The volume draws together organises and illustrates the contours of this emerging field and is an essential compendium which covers work in teacher education and teacher experience student understanding attitudes and values varieties of religious schooling and worldview and life interpretation Organised into ten thematic sections the contributors cover the field comprehensively and bring with them an international and reflexive approach to their research It is an essential resource for those practitioners and researchers who wish to access original and innovative research undertaken by way of ethnographic fieldwork practitioner research life history approaches to research psychological scales and measures and large surveys Particularly interested readers will be studying PGCE and masters level programmes in religious education as well as qualified religious educators undertaking continuing professional development

Rethinking Religious Education and Plurality Robert Jackson,2013-02-01 How should schools deal with religions in matters of curriculum procedure and policy As Western society becomes increasingly multicultural in character schools must reassess the provision of religious education and look at how they might adapt in order to accommodate students diverse experiences of plurality This book offers a critical view of approaches to the treatment of different religions in contemporary education in order to devise approaches to teaching and learning and to formulate policies and procedures that are fair and just to all Beginning with a contextual overview of the religious social and cultural changes of the past fifty years the book goes on to illuminate and assess six different responses to the challenges posed by religious plurality in schools Conclusions are drawn from the various positions explored in this book identifying what the character of religious education should be how it should be taught and addressing the issues raised for policy practice and research *Rethinking Religious Education and Plurality* argues for a plural approach to education and will be a valuable resource for students and researchers studying courses in religious education as well as teachers education advisers and policy makers Research in Education ,1969

Resources in Education ,1998 **Religious Studies in Alberta** Ronald Neufeldt,2006-01-01 This first volume on the

state of the art in religious studies in Canada offers a description and critique of the field in the colleges universities and secondary schools in Alberta Among the findings philosophical theological and textual approaches to the study of religion predominate to the relative neglect of methodologies employed in fields such as sociology and anthropology the quality and quantity of published research is significant but focusses on Christian studies some interdisciplinary study is being carried on and benefits religious studies as well as other fields religious studies scholars in Alberta have a relatively high public profile but their exercise of public responsibility is time consuming and can jeopardize career advancement in view of wide spread religious illiteracy among students descriptive courses must not be neglected in favour of analytical ones An appendix listing courses offered in the schools surveyed concludes the volume

Religious Education for Plural Societies Robert Jackson, 2018-10-08 In the World Library of Educationalists series international experts themselves compile career long collections of what they judge to be their finest pieces extracts from books key articles salient research findings major theoretical and practical contributions so the world can read them in a single manageable volume Readers will be able to follow the themes and strands and see how their work contributes to the development of the field Religious Education for Plural Societies highlights key writings from Robert Jackson's international career in education It provides a historical perspective in relation to current debates about religious education in the UK and internationally drawing attention to current issues of concern Carefully selected examples explore the key themes in religious education that allow us to consider how things were how they are now and the future for the field of study Split into parts empirical research the interpretive approach to religious education pedagogy religious education and plurality and human rights and international policy developments Robert Jackson also provides an overview of the text in the form of a general introduction and also introductions to each section of the book allowing the reader a personal insight into why each piece has been chosen Religious Education for Plural Societies allows readers to follow themes and strands across Robert Jackson's career and see how his work has contributed to the development of the fields of religions and education It will be of interest to all followers of Robert Jackson's work and any reader interested in the development of religious education in the UK and internationally

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Education United States. Office of Education, 1927

Learning to Teach Citizenship in the Secondary School Liam Gearon, 2014-11-26 Praise for previous editions A comprehensive and illuminating resource on both citizenship and citizenship education David Hicks Times Educational Supplement What is the role of citizenship How can it be taught effectively Learning to Teach Citizenship in the Secondary School is an essential resource for students training to teach citizenship in the secondary school as well as teachers of citizenship looking for fresh ideas and guidance Written by leading experts in the field the book is underpinned by the latest research and theory and explores a variety of inspirational approaches to teaching and learning in a subject which provides a critical underpinning to the whole school curriculum This new third edition has been comprehensively updated and restructured to emphasise the

role of citizenship across the curriculum exploring a wider range of subjects including geography modern foreign languages mathematics and science Key topics include historical origins and contemporary contexts developing subject knowledge and skills of enquiry effective lesson plans schemes of work and assessment citizenship beyond the classroom community based work and learning outdoors citizenship across the curriculum English drama and media history geography and religious education modern foreign languages mathematics and science and RE research in citizenship Including key objectives and chapter summaries together with carefully developed tasks to support your own professional development Learning to Teach Citizenship in the Secondary School is designed to develop theoretically informed good practice in citizenship education It is a source of support guidance and creative ideas for all training citizenship teachers and those teaching the subject as non specialists and offers specialists new insight into this crucial subject

Christian Perspectives for Education Leslie J. Francis, Adrian Thatcher, 1990 **MasterClass in Religious Education** Liam Francis Gearon, 2013-02-14 MasterClass in Religious Education provides a comprehensive exploration of the major themes in religious education research and pedagogy drawing on international research The author draws together historical theological religious and comparative and international perspectives to explore religious education's role in confronting controversial issues and the implications this has for teaching learning and research This book incorporates discussions of current post 9 11 debates on religion in the modern world focusing particularly on the relationship of religion to secular political contexts Liam Gearon pays close attention to debates around religion in liberal democratic societies looking at topics such as citizenship human rights and identity

Debates in Religious Education L. Philip Barnes, 2023-08-10 This essential book provides a comprehensive introduction to current debates in religious education Exploring the rich variety of opinions and ideas that constitute and impact upon religious education both novice and experienced teachers will benefit from deepening their theoretical knowledge and understanding through reading Debates in Religious Education This second edition has fully updated all chapters and included an additional thirteen new contributions providing a provocative yet informative introduction to current debates and allowing teachers to reach informed decisions about how they approach this subject Responding to recent controversy and challenging assumptions about the place of religion in education expert contributors cover key topics such as The aims of religious education Religious education in the United Kingdom and Ireland Agreed syllabuses and the role of Standing Advisory Councils Educational issues such as the right of withdrawal collective worship and faith schools Teaching and learning in religious education Multi faith religious education Relating science and religion With its combination of expert opinion and fresh insight this essential text is the ideal companion for any student or practising teacher engaged in initial training continuing professional development or Master's level study *Religious Education*, 1923 Available on microfilm from University Microfilms *Bulletin* Crozer Theological Seminary, 1924 **Annual Report of the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America** Presbyterian Church in the

U.S.A. Board of Christian Education,1929 Religious Education 5-11 Imran Mogra,2022-10-12 Religious Education has returned in the limelight of education Religious Education 5 11 deals with present day debates and issues at the heart of this important subject It provides a systematic holistic and unified guidance on teaching RE in primary school The guide features vignettes case studies extracts and viewpoints from experts for deeper engagement Religious Education 5 11 offers ample guidance and suggestions for the classroom The main areas covered include Historical legal and contemporary perspectives What is RE about Aims purposes and the field of enquiry RE in the Early Years Key Stages 1 and 2 Knowledge in RE Concepts attitudes skills dispositions and SMSC Planning and structuring the curriculum Theories classical and contemporary pedagogies and multidisciplinary approaches Assessment and progression Subject leadership and the thriving community Research and lifelong learning in RE This book is an indispensable resource for all student educators early career teachers and classroom practitioners interested in teaching Religious Education in an ambitious contemporary and challenging way

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Table of Contents Religious Studies Research Report

1. Understanding the eBook Religious Studies Research Report
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Religious Studies Research Report
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Religious Studies Research Report
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Religious Studies Research Report
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Religious Studies Research Report
 - Personalized Recommendations

- Religious Studies Research Report User Reviews and Ratings
- Religious Studies Research Report and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Religious Studies Research Report Free and Paid eBooks
 - Religious Studies Research Report Public Domain eBooks
 - Religious Studies Research Report eBook Subscription Services
 - Religious Studies Research Report Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Religious Studies Research Report eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Religious Studies Research Report Compatibility with Devices
 - Religious Studies Research Report Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Religious Studies Research Report
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Religious Studies Research Report
 - Interactive Elements Religious Studies Research Report
- 8. Staying Engaged with Religious Studies Research Report
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Religious Studies Research Report
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Religious Studies Research Report
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Religious Studies Research Report
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Religious Studies Research Report
 - Setting Reading Goals Religious Studies Research Report
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Religious Studies Research Report
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Religious Studies Research Report

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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