

ARE YOU A HUMANIST?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS IS CLOSEST TO YOUR POINT OF VIEW?



1. DOES GOD EXIST?

- A) I am sure there is a god ruling over the universe.
- B) It depends what you mean by a god, but I think so.
- C) I don't know.
- D) There is no evidence that any god(s) exist, so I'll assume that there isn't one.

2. WHEN I DIE...

- A) My soul will go to another place where I will be rewarded if I was good and punished if I was bad.
- B) I will survive in some kind of afterlife.
- C) That will be the end of me.
- D) I will live on in people's memories or because of the work I have done or through my children.

3. HOW DID THE UNIVERSE BEGIN?

- A) A god (or gods) created it.
- B) It was set up as an experiment by extremely intelligent aliens from another universe, who stop in every now and then to see how we're doing.
- C) I don't know.
- D) The scientific explanations are the best ones available — no gods were involved.

4. THE THEORY THAT LIFE ON EARTH EVOLVED GRADUALLY OVER BILLIONS OF YEARS IS...

- A) Just a theory. My religion tells the true story.
- B) Likely to be true, but I think god had a part in it too.
- C) Probably true, because my science teacher said it was true.
- D) True — there is plenty of evidence from fossils, DNA and many other sources showing that this is how it happened.

5. WHEN I LOOK AT A BEAUTIFUL VIEW I THINK THAT ...

- A) It must have been designed by god.
- B) It would be a nice place for a motorway.
- C) This is what life is all about — I feel good.
- D) We ought to do everything possible to protect this for future generations.

6. I CAN TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG BY...

- A) Reading a holy book or listening to a religious leader.
- B) I don't really think about it much — people should just do as they like.
- C) Accepting what my parents and teachers say.
- D) Thinking hard about the probable consequences of actions and their effects on other people.

7. IT'S BEST TO BE HONEST BECAUSE...

- A) My religion tells me so.
- B) It's usually against the law or the rules to be dishonest.
- C) People respect you more if you're trustworthy.
- D) I'm happier and feel better about myself if I'm honest.

8. OTHER PEOPLE MATTER AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT BECAUSE...

- A) God created us all in his image.
- B) They are useful to me.
- C) They are people with feelings like mine.
- D) We will all be happier if we treat each other well.

9. ANIMALS SHOULD BE TREATED ...

- A) With respect because they are part of god's creation.
- B) However we see fit — they don't have souls and were created for us to use.
- C) Kindly because they are sweet and fluffy and nicer than people.
- D) With respect because they can suffer too.

10. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS...

- A) To have a good relationship with god.
- B) To make lots of money.
- C) To preserve the planet for future generations.
- D) To increase the general happiness and welfare of humanity.

INTERPRETING YOUR ANSWERS:

This is a more or less serious set of questions designed to help you think about whether or not you have a religious view of the world, and how this affects your moral beliefs. However, many people have a fairly mixed collection of beliefs, and few are completely consistent, so it is possible that none of the profiles below truly reflects your worldview. But they do give an indication of what most humanists believe — and don't believe.

All or mostly As: You definitely have a religious faith and Humanism is not for you, though you may agree with humanists on some issues, especially if you also collected a few Cs or Ds.

All or mostly Bs: You may have some religious beliefs, or you might still be exploring ideas and not yet made up your mind. Some of your choices are not very ethical — so you're unlikely to be a humanist!

All or mostly Cs: Your answers are fairly neutral, perhaps a bit dependent on authority, other people, or pure emotion. Humanists try to think for themselves. You may be an agnostic, a humanist, or vaguely religious, depending on what your answers to some particular questions were.

All or mostly Ds: You are a humanist or very close to humanist thinking. Many people are, often without even knowing it! Humanists don't agree about everything, and you may have collected some other answers too, though if they include As and Bs you're unlikely to be a humanist.

