

RE – How do questions about Brahman and Atman influence the way a Hindu lives?

ahimsa	Refraining from harming living things as harming others harms you.
Atman	The parts of Brahman that is in every living being.
Aum/Om	The key symbol of Hinduism. It is said to be the sound at the heart of the universe. Using the sound in prayer helps a worshipper focus on and become united with God, the aim of all existence.
Brahman	The supreme being in Hinduism.
deities	Gods that represent Brahman
Hindu	Someone who follows the Hindu faith and believes that all life is sacred. The word Hindu comes from Sindhu, a river in North West India, which in Sanskrit means ‘a vast expanse of water’.
Hinduism	A collection of ancient traditions with more emphasis on doing the right thing than agreeing a particular set of rules or teachings.
sacred	Sacred means holy – a special thing to be worshipped and honoured.
Sanskrit	One of the languages use in South Asia and India. It is the language of Hinduism.

Brahman (the one Supreme Being or cosmic principle) and Atman (the true self in each human) is a bit like:

- God the fire giving out sparks
- God as sunlight glinting off waves
- God looking out through human eyes
- The ultimate connection or unity behind all things

Hindus see Brahman differently. There is not one ‘picture’ or view of Brahman that is correct.

Hindus use the deities **Shiva, Parvati, Krishna, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesh, Nataraja** to help them see the different parts of Brahman’s character.

The deities often look a bit like a human and are worshiped in temples and at home.

There is not just one set of holy writing about Hinduism, but many which have been written by the Hindu gurus over time.

Ganesha is the lord of success, knowledge, and wealth.

Shiva represents death and dissolution, destroying worlds so they may be recreated by Brahma. But he is also considered the master of dance and of regeneration.



Krishna is the deity of love and compassion.

Rama is the god of truth and virtue

Vishnu is the preserver or sustainer of life. He represents the principles of order, righteousness, and truth.

In Hinduism, cows are sacred. Many Hindus are vegetarian and respect all life.



Tier 2 words

culture	The ideas, customs and social behaviour of a group of people
tradition	A set of beliefs passed from generation to generation