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Lesson plan

Critiques of religious belief

Jon Mayled

Using the poster on pp. 16–17 of the magazine in class.

The big picture	Sociological and psychological arguments about religious belief.
Learning objectives	<p>What? Sociological and psychological arguments about religious belief: key points, strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>Why? To compare, evaluate and analyse different versions of these arguments.</p> <p>How? After studying this topic, students should be able to define what is meant by sociological and psychological arguments about religious belief. Also, they can explain their strengths and weaknesses and differing responses to them.</p>
Starter activity	Use the 'To think about ...' box. Read the statement by Bultmann and then answer the questions that follow.
Lesson activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literacy-based task where students read and annotate the poster and raise questions on aspects that they do not understand. Followed by discussion. • Which argument do you agree with most? Explain why you feel that is the most accurate. (Sociological and psychological) • Create a table outlining the strengths and weaknesses of both arguments.
Plenary	Link and evaluate the concept of nature vs nurture by using both the sociological and psychological arguments.
Homework task	Examination question on both the sociological and psychological arguments.
Assessment opportunities	Using the mark scheme, students should self-assess their work with feedback from the teacher.
Differentiation	Teachers could create a worksheet defining key terms.

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