Is sewa (selfless service) the most important way to show Sikh faith? – Knowledge Organiser

Key information- What is Sikhi?

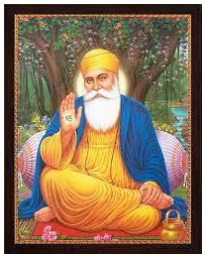
- Sikhi a preferred term for Sikhs today, is the Punjabi term not the Western label.
- Sikhi was founded in the Punjab region of India which spans the border or India and Pakistan.
- Founded by Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539 CE), a powerful religious leader who Sikhs believe was inspired by God.
- Sikh belief and practice was formalised by the 10th Guru, Gobind Singh, in 1699 CE.
- The word Sikh comes from the Sanskrit word meaning student or learner.

Key words:

Guru Nanak- the first of 10 Sikh gurus, the founder of the faith
Mul Mantar- the first words of the Guru Granth Sahib, a prayer that states some of the key beliefs Sikhs hold about God.
Gurdwara Sikh place of worship
Guru Granth Sahib- The holy text of Sikhi, treated like a living Guru
Sewa selfless service of others
Langar a meal shared at the Gurdwara after prayer which is open to anyone.

Who was Guru Nanak and what did he teach?

- Nanak gained a following and was known as a Guru during his life. He appointed another Guru before he died.
- **When he was born an, astrologer said he would be important holy man who was respected by both Hindus and Muslims (religions which were in conflict in the region at the time)**
- **Sikhs believe the Guru's teaching support a Sikh belief in equality "I am neither a child, a young man, nor an ancient; nor am I of any caste"**



Mul mantar

There is only 1 God
His name is Truth
The creator
Without fear
Without hatred
Timeless
Unborn and self-existent
Known by the grace of the Guru

What are the 5 Ks and why are they important?

Kesh- uncut hair showing respect for God's gifts
Kanga- a comb to keep hair neat and also showing the importance of a clean mind and body
Kachera- shorts worn under clothing reminding Sikhs not to engage in sexual misconduct
Kirpan- a knife/knife symbol carried to remind Sikhs to fight for those who receive unjust treatment
Kara- a bracelet that reflects Sikh beliefs that there is no beginning or end to God
These are worn after a person takes Amrit and joins the Khalsa. Not all Sikhs will join the Khalsa, or wear all of the 5 ks.

Why is sewa an important part of the Sikh faith?

- The Sikh traditions of selfless service. There are different kinds (Tan (physical), Man (mental) and Dhan(material))
- Guru Nanak showed the importance of sewa when…
- Sewa is supported in the Guru Granth Sahib 'Through selfless service, eternal peace is obtained.'
- Preparation of the langar is one way that Sikhs can perform sewa.
- Khalsa aid is a Sikh charity that seeks to put Sikh beliefs about sewa into practice.

What is the Guru Granth Sahib and how does it guide action today?

The Guru Granth Sahib is not just the holy scripture of Sikhism. It is also considered as the living Guru. Before Guru Gobind Singh (10th Guru) died, he declared that there would be no more human Gurus and that the Guru Granth Sahib would be the Eternal Guru. It includes writings from Hindu and Muslim writers who believed in the oneness of God. Some of these writers were from lower castes (a class system associated present at the time Sikhi was founded), which shows the inclusiveness of Sikhi.