Exercise walk-through

2.2
Religion and change: secularization and revival

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Religion and Society · SL

You must be able to

- explain the secularization thesis and its critics
- interpret data on the world's religious composition
- distinguish believing, belonging and behaving
- explain revival and new movements
- evaluate whether the world is becoming less religious

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

1 The method

Method — Secularization and its critics

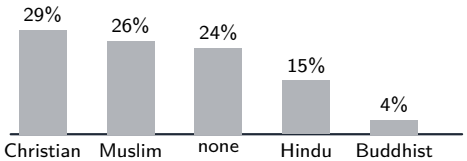
Secularization: the idea that religion loses social importance as societies modernize (Max Weber's "disenchantment"; many sociologists in the 1960s). Peter Berger supported it in the 1960s but by 1999 argued that the world was "as furiously religious as it ever was", with secular Western Europe as the exception: **desecularization**. Grace Davie described Britain as "believing without belonging": many hold beliefs but rarely attend services. Scholars distinguish **believing**, **belonging** and **behaving**.

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Explain what is meant by "**believing without belonging**". [2]

2.2 In 2020 the world population was about 7.9 billion and about 24 % were religiously unaffiliated. Calculate the number of unaffiliated people, and explain **one** reason why "unaffiliated" does not mean "atheist". [3]



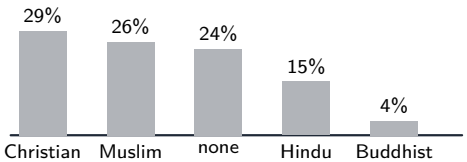
Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Explain what is meant by "**believing without belonging**". [2]

2.1

people hold religious beliefs, e.g. in God or prayer; but do not regularly attend or belong to a religious institution (Grace Davie, on Britain)

2.2 In 2020 the world population was about 7.9 billion and about 24 % were religiously unaffiliated. Calculate the number of unaffiliated people, and explain **one** reason why "unaffiliated" does not mean "atheist". [3]



2.2

$7.9 \times 0.24 \approx \mathbf{1.9}$ billion; "unaffiliated" means no religious identity, not no belief; many unaffiliated people believe in God or a higher power, or practise some rituals

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Explain **two** reasons why the Muslim share of the world population grew between 2010 and 2020. [4]

2.4 Explain why Peter Berger changed his view on secularization, and evaluate his later view. [6]

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Explain **two** reasons why the Muslim share of the world population grew between 2010 and 2020. [4]

2.3

a young population: more people at the age of having children; higher average birth rates in many Muslim-majority countries; fewer people leaving Islam than leaving some other religions (low net switching); so growth is mainly demographic, not mainly conversion

---

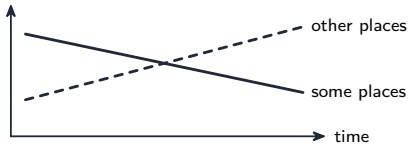
2.4 Explain why Peter Berger changed his view on secularization, and evaluate his later view. [6]

2.4

1960s: Berger expected religion to decline with modernization; by 1999 he argued the world was “as furiously religious as it ever was”; evidence: growth of evangelical and Pentecostal Christianity and of Islam in many regions; Western Europe as the exception; evaluation: data show growth of the unaffiliated in some countries, so both trends exist; a judgement

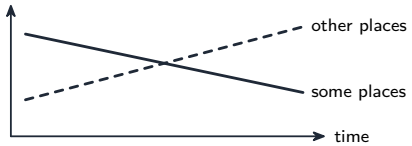
Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Preparation essay.)* "The world is becoming less religious." Evaluate this claim with data and examples from **three** traditions or regions. [15]



Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Preparation essay.)* "The world is becoming less religious." Evaluate this claim with data and examples from **three** traditions or regions. [15]



3.1

Mark with the markbands: [13-15] clearly focused on the question, accurate knowledge of at least three traditions, the four concepts applied, different views and sources evaluated, well-developed critical analysis, different perspectives evaluated, a reasoned conclusion; [10-12] focused, mostly accurate knowledge, analysis with some evaluation; [7-9] some focus, relevant knowledge, mostly narrative or description with limited analysis; [4-6] little focus, limited knowledge, mostly narrative; [1-3] little understanding of the question. Points that may be included: explains secularization and the claim; data: share of the unaffiliated grew, mainly by switching in Christian-majority countries; Western Europe: falling attendance; "believing without belonging"; against: Muslim and Christian populations grow in Africa and Asia; Pentecostal growth; Berger's desecularization; believing, belonging and behaving measured separately; examples from three traditions or regions; limits of the data: definitions and surveys; a reasoned conclusion