**What are my Values and Attitudes? **

**Values Auction**

* Allocate a finite amount of either real or imaginary (board) game money to each student. E.g. $50.
* Provide a list of ‘items’ for sale i.e. values.
* An auctioneer (teacher or student) puts each item up for sale.
* An assistant records the bids of the students which are made in accordance to their interests and means.
* When the auction is over, find out which were the five most highly valued items according to the amount of money paid for them.

**Values for Auction:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. *Being a good friend to others* 2. *Being popular* 3. *Physical attractiveness* 4. *Musical or artistic talent* 5. *Being honest* 6. *Having money and nice clothes* 7. *Power* 8. *Athletic ability* 9. *Avoiding exploitation (being hurt or hurting others) in relationships* 10. *Feeling good about myself* 11. *Social prestige* 12. *Accepting people who are different from me* 13. *Having a close relationship with my family* | 1. *Practising my religion or spirituality* 2. *Having the freedom to make my own decisions* 3. *Good health* 4. *Giving back to the community or helping others* 5. *Fighting to right the wrongs of our society* 6. *Becoming a parent one day* 7. *Getting married or having a committed life partner one day* 8. *Professional success* 9. *Social status* 10. *Fame* 11. *Academic success* |

**Consider and Discuss - In small groups consider the following questions in light of the auction results:**

* What are the most enjoyable things in life?
* What are the most important things in life?

*Life is a zoo in a jungle*. Peter De Vries

Report back to the whole class.

We all have different ways of defining what makes up the ‘good life’. This is because we possess different world views. Our worldviews are made up of our basic beliefs about the world around us and ourselves. We may not be conscious of these beliefs but we all have them. A worldview is the source from which our thoughts, values, actions and feelings spring. These world views are sometimes said to be shaped by the **discourses** within which we are immersed e.g. education, religion, family, peers, media discourses.

**Basic Belief Questions**

Our basic beliefs are usually formed in the following four areas: reality, human nature, purpose, and ethics.

1. How do I describe the world in which I find myself? (reality)
2. Who and what am I? (reality)
3. Why am I here? (purpose)
4. What should I be doing? (purpose)
5. How do I work out how best to live my life? (ethics)
6. How do I work out what is right and wrong? (ethics)

**Why are worldviews important?**

*The life which is unexamined is not worth living*. Plato

The way we think influences how we feel, act and react. A cursory glance at human history will demonstrate this dramatically. Think about the different worldviews of men like Adolf Hitler and Nelson Mandela. Hitler’s worldview included a belief that the Aryan race was superior and this resulted in the extermination of six million Jews. Nelson Mandela’s worldview included a belief that human beings are essentially the same despite the colour of their skin and this resulted in the destruction of the oppressive system of apartheid in South Africa.

The examination of worldviews will help us:

* To make sense of a complex and often confusing and contradictory world
* To understand why different people behave differently
* To appreciate our own belief and actions: why we do what we do; why we believe things are true; why we should affirm or modify our belief
* To evaluate critically the values that compete for our allegiance

**What worldviews are out there?**

1. **Materialism** – Material goods matter, the goal of life is to accumulate more and better goods.
2. **Humanism** – Human beings are of ultimate value, the wellbeing of all people and individual responsibility for the happiness of others are the two guiding principles in decision-making.
3. **Hedonism** – What matters in life is pleasure, the pursuit of entertainment and stimulation is the purpose of life.
4. **Theism/Christianity** - Views reality as being both physical and spiritual. God is both the creator and sustainer of all things. Right and wrong are absolutes, which can be known by all people. Human history is not a random sequence of purposeless events but is moving towards a resolution under God.
5. **Environmentalism** – The salvation of mankind lies in seeing nature as sacred as nature is our origin.
6. **Scientism/Technologism** - Science will be able to solve the world’s problems, the outcomes of scientific activity define our progress, and human reason is supreme.
7. **Individualism** – Personal freedom and desires take priority over community.
8. **Pantheism** – reality is essentially spiritual. Humans are one with the ultimate reality. Our purpose is to achieve a change in consciousness. It is possible to tap into spiritual forces and to use them for your benefit.
9. **Pluralism** – the belief that any claim that one worldview is intrinsically superior to another is necessarily wrong. No belief has the right to pronounce itself right or true and the others false. A consequence of this is relativism- - whatever is deemed right or appropriate from an individual’s perspective is considered acceptable.
10. **Postmodernism** – a tendency to select bits and pieces from the range of possibilities available.
11. **Neo**-Liberalism

**Tip: Research any world views that appeal to you more fully. You could use the values and beliefs underpinning one or more world views to inform the central idea of your ‘message to the future’.**

***Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.* Albert Einstein**

***The goal of life is living in agreement with nature.* Zeno**

***The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity.* Tolstoy**

***If the creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, he surely meant us to stick it out.* Koestler**

**Understanding Worldviews**

1. **Fill in the blank cells in the table below to show your understanding of the worldviews listed above.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  | How do I describe the world in which I find myself? | Who and what am I? | Why am I here? | What should I be doing? | How do I work out how best to live my life? | How do I work out what is right and wrong? |
| **Materialism** | only physical |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Hedonism** |  |  | personal pleasure |  |  |  |
| **Theism** |  | physical and spiritual being |  |  |  |  |
| **Postmodernism** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Environmentalism** |  |  |  | saving the planet |  |  |
| **Pluralism** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Scientism/Technologism** | like a machine |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pantheism** |  |  |  |  | seek a new consciousness |  |
| **Individualism** |  |  |  |  |  | whatever I want |
| **Humanism** |  |  |  |  |  | whatever is good for me and the community |