

# RE Knowledge Organiser – Hindu (Karma/dharma/samsara/moksha)

## Key Question

Why do Hindus try to be good?

### Topic Overview

- To recall learning about Brahman (God) and Atman (eternal self) and to remember that Hindu is very diverse so we must be careful to say 'Hindus believe...'
- To explore the Hindu story from the Mahabharata 'The man in the well' and discuss the themes outlined.
- To consider some Hindu values and how they make a difference to Hindu life individually and in a community.
- Explore the concept of Hindus describing life as a journey towards Moksha with different stages described as 'ashramas'.
- Explore the Hindu concept of 'Karma' which is the law of cause and effect and how actions can bring good or bad Karma.
- To explore Hindu ideas about the four aims of life (purusharthas) – dharma, artha, kama, moksha.

### Key Vocabulary

Brahman	A member of the highest Hindu caste.
Atman	The spiritual life principal of the universe.
Karma	the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.
Moksha	Freedom – release from the cycle of rebirth.
Samsara	the cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the material world is bound.
ashramas	a system of stages of life discussed in Hindu texts of the ancient and medieval eras.
purusharthas	Purushartha literally means an "object of human pursuit". It is a key concept in Hinduism, and refers to the four proper goals or aims of a human life.

### Learning Outcomes

- To identify and explain Hindu beliefs eg/ dharma, karma, samsara, moksha using technical terms correctly.
- To give meanings to the story of 'the man in the well'.
- To make clear connections between Hindu beliefs about dharma, karma, samsara and moksha and ways in which Hindus live.
- To give evidence and examples to show how Hindus put their beliefs into practice in different ways.



