

## Key concepts

- There is little detail about the creation of the universe in Sikh thought. This makes it challenging for Sikhs to decide how it fits in with the Big Bang theory. The Guru Granth Sahib is more interested in the wonder of God's creation rather than its possible origins. However, Sikhs feel there would be no mention of the rapid expansion of matter that caused the universe to begin, unless it was Waheguru who caused the expansion.
- The widely accepted Big Bang theory seems to be a great explanation for the origins of the universe, however, it does not remove the need for God. In fact, it seems to fit in well with Sikh philosophy as it allows the existence of God previous to the singularity.
- Continuous creation and the expansion of the universe are also supported by the Guru Granth Sahib. The Shri Guru Granth Sahib also provides an insight into the expansion of the universe.
- As Sikh teachings mention little about how Waheguru created the universe and how life developed on Earth, it is quite possible for evolution to be a part of Sikh thought. Evolution would only be accepted as compatible with Sikhism if Waheguru was in complete control of the process.
- Quantum physics is an intriguing aspect of physics and other theories such as string theory offer some interesting discussions. Although it would be a loose link, Sikh philosophy says that everything within the creation contains vibrations and the frequencies of the vibrating strings could be argued to be similar to this.
- Sikhism has developed in Britain because Sikhs have integrated well into British society into areas ranging from Parliament to medicine.
- British culture allows for diversity. Therefore, staying true to Punjabi culture should in no way stop Sikhs assimilating into British society and could be regarded as an addition to the richness and diversity of British life.
- The gurdwara has developed as a social centre within the community and helped preserve Sikh traditions.
- Sikh values and principles, as defined in the Rahit Maryada, can be difficult to follow in a secular society built on the values of materialism.
- Sikhism has adapted to the challenges of a secular society without betraying its unique identity.



## Key quotes

*'Science and religion, in spite of being autonomous undertakings, are like contemporary forces that operate in tandem.'* – (Religious experience in science, Dr D. P. Singh)

*'What was that season, and what was that month, when the Universe was created? The Creator who created this creation – only He Himself knows.'* – (Guru Granth Sahib p. 3)

*'The Guru says, "He established the earth, the sky and the air, the water of the oceans, fire and food. He created the moon, the stars and the sun, night and day and mountains; he blessed the trees with flowers and fruit."'* – (Guru Granth Sahib p. 1399)

*'Sikhs suffer most due to their visible identity and articles of faith. In fact, the Sikhs are in a worse position so far as the turban is concerned because the Sikh "dastar" is an inseparable part of Sikh faith. A country should not suppress people's basic rights in the name of secularism in this way.'* – (Gurmukh Singh)

*'The Merciful Master has now decreed that no one shall inflict pain on another (or oppress another). All abide in peace and this shall be the benign regime.'* – (Guru Granth Sahib p. 74)

## Key words

Creation	Expansion	Evolution	String theory	Integration
Diversity	Guru Granth Sahib	Culture	Gurdwara	Tradition
Values	Assimilation	Secular	Waheguru	Identity
Big Bang theory	Continuous creation	Rahit Maryada	Materialism	

## Issues for analysis and evaluation

### Key arguments/debates

Some would argue that Sikhism is completely compatible with science. Others would argue that since Sikhism believes in God's creation, this cannot be true. Some would argue that there is a lot of common ground between Sikhism and science.

### Key questions

How effective are the Sikh responses to the challenges of science?

Is assimilation into a secular society possible for Sikhs in Britain?

How effective have Sikh responses been to the challenges of secularisation?