

Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION 1 Describe the hierarchical structure of the Church of England.

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG The British Monarch is the official head of the Church of England (C of E). She or he appoints two Archbishops who lead the C of E. They are appointed for life. The Archbishops are members of the House of Lords and take an active part in politics.

ANALYSIS 2 Describe and interpret the bar chart. → S27

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Generally speaking the bar chart shows that in England and Wales there is a significant number of different religions. If one compares the numbers of each group between 2008 and 2012, we notice a decline in the number of Christians and a large rise in those who profess to have no religion. Interestingly, all non-Christian religions have grown in numbers except for the Sikhs, with the Hindus showing the largest growth. The bar chart makes it clear that in England and Wales there is a tendency to move away from Christianity.

EVALUATION 3 Comment on the different relationships between church and state ... → Δ1

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG The UK:

- The British Monarch is the head of the Church of England/Anglican Church.
- The Monarch appoints the Archbishops of the C of E.
- The Archbishops are members of the House of Lords.
- They partake in politics.
- The C of E is the largest Christian group.
- There is no separation between the C of E and the state.

The US:

- Early settlers came to America because of religious prosecution in Europe.
- Numerous Christian denominations came into existence.
- The US Constitution guarantees the complete separation of church and state (First Amendment of 1791).
- The freedom of religious expression is guaranteed.
- Various Protestant denominations comprise the largest Christian group.
- Christian fundamentalists oppose the theory of evolution and take a literal view of the creation of the world as described in the Book of Genesis.

Comment:

Both relationships express different historical traditions. The complete separation of church and state in the US was instigated by the religious persecution of some European immigrants who came to America in the 17th and 18th centuries. They did not want the state to interfere in religious matters. A constitutionally guaranteed separation is advantageous insofar as religious practices are left to the individual and a large variety of different denominations exists without one dominating the rest.

In the UK, by contrast, the Monarch became the Supreme Head of the Church of England after Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. The automatic partaking of the two Archbishops in politics allows the C of E to voice their opinion on controversial matters in Parliament. However, the very right to do so may leave one wondering if it is really feasible for the two representatives of the C of E to voice their opinions on everyday political matters. In this context it might be argued that the C of E should only interfere in political issues if these have a clear bearing on religious teachings, e.g. the sanctity of life.