Beliefs

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each belief word.

Word | Attitude | Practice | Group | Concept

1 conviction [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 ritual [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 congregation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 dogma [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 open-minded [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 worldview [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 sceptical [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 devout [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 She has strong conviction about it. _____
2 They perform daily of ritual. _____
3 The congregation meet every week. _____
4 He questions the dogma of. _____
5 She is very open-minded about of things. _____
6 His worldview shaped by his upbringing. _____
7 I am sceptical about of that claim. _____
8 He is devout of believer. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a strong, firmly held belief: conviction / vague idea.
2 For a repeated, formal practice with symbolic meaning: ritual / random habit.
3 For rigid, unquestioned doctrine: dogma / flexible reasoning.
4 For someone willing to consider different ideas: open-minded / closed-minded.
5 For a person's overall framework for understanding life: worldview / a single fact.
6 For someone who doubts claims without strong evidence: sceptical / gullible.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

congregation | conviction | devout | dogma | open-minded | ritual | sceptical | worldview

Profile A: He holds his beliefs with real 1 _____ but remains 2 _____ towards other perspectives, willing to listen and learn.
Profile B: She is a 3 _____ member of her local 4 _____, attending every service without fail.
Profile C: He questions strict religious 5 _____, preferring to think critically rather than accept ideas without question.
Profile D: Her 6 _____ was shaped by years of travel, and she remains 7 _____ about claims that seem too simple.
Profile E: The morning 8 _____ of quiet reflection helps her start each day calmly.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

How beliefs shape identity

Psychologists studying belief formation note that personal convictions, whether religious, political or philosophical, often develop through a combination of upbringing, community influence and individual reflection. A person's worldview rarely forms in isolation; it is typically shaped by the congregation, family or social group they belong to, even as individual reasoning plays a role over time. Remaining open-minded towards other perspectives does not necessarily weaken one's own convictions; researchers suggest that genuine engagement with differing views can strengthen rather than undermine a person's sense of identity, provided the exchange remains respectful rather than dismissive.

1 What do personal convictions often develop through? _____

2 Does a worldview typically form in isolation? _____

3 What typically shapes a person's worldview? _____

4 Does remaining open-minded necessarily weaken one's convictions? _____

5 What can genuine engagement with differing views do? _____

6 What condition must the exchange meet for this to happen? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 She believes this very strongly. CONVICTION _____

2 He is willing to consider other ideas. OPEN-MINDED _____

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3 She doubts claims without strong evidence. SCEPTICAL _____

4 His overall way of understanding life was shaped by travel. WORLDVIEW _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how someone's beliefs or worldview developed over time. Include specific influences.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Attitude 2 Practice 3 Group 4 Concept 5 Attitude 6 Concept 7 Attitude 8 Attitude

2 Corrections

1 strong conviction 2 daily rituals 3 congregation meets 4 questions the dogma
5 open-minded about things 6 shaped by his upbringing 7 sceptical about the claim
8 a devout believer

3 Suitable descriptions

1 conviction 2 ritual 3 dogma 4 open-minded 5 worldview 6 sceptical

4 Profiles

1 conviction 2 open-minded 3 devout 4 congregation 5 dogma 6 worldview 7 sceptical 8 ritual

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A combination of upbringing, community influence and individual reflection.
2 No.
3 The congregation, family or social group they belong to.
4 No.
5 Strengthen rather than undermine a person's sense of identity.
6 The exchange must remain respectful rather than dismissive.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She holds this belief with conviction. 2 He is open-minded.
3 She is sceptical of the claim. 4 His worldview was shaped by travel.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.