

Chapter 1
Topic 3 Secularisation
Page 26
Activity: Webquest
'U.S. public becoming less religious'

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of secularisation.
- Analyse evidence of secularisation in the U.S.A.

The website below gives the results of a survey of 35,000 American adults on religious beliefs and practices. In pairs, use the website to complete the tasks below.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/u-s-public-becoming-less-religious/>

A1. Complete the following table:

Measure	% in 2007	% in 2014
Adults who are religiously affiliated		
Adults who are not religiously affiliated		

A2. How does this data support the view that the US is becoming more secular? Give reasons for your answer.

B1. Complete the following table:

Belief/practice	% 2007 All US adults	% 2007 Religiously unaffiliated	% 2014 All US adults	% 2014 Religiously unaffiliated
Believe in God				
Pray daily				
See religion as very important				
Attend services at least monthly				

B2. Does the data suggest increasing secularisation in the US? Give reasons for your answer.

C. Look at the table, 'Members of Younger Generational Cohorts Far Less Observant than Older Americans'.

1. What do the figures show about the relationship between age and the importance of religion?
2. Which generations have the highest and the lowest frequency of prayer?
3. Which age range is most likely to attend religious services?
4. What effects might these patterns have on the future of religion in America?

D. Look at the figures for views on homosexuality and abortion. How do these figures illustrate a pattern of secularisation in America?

- E. Using page 25-26 and your answers to A-D above, summarise the evidence showing that secularisation is occurring in America. Do you think the statistics accurately measure and demonstrate secularisation?