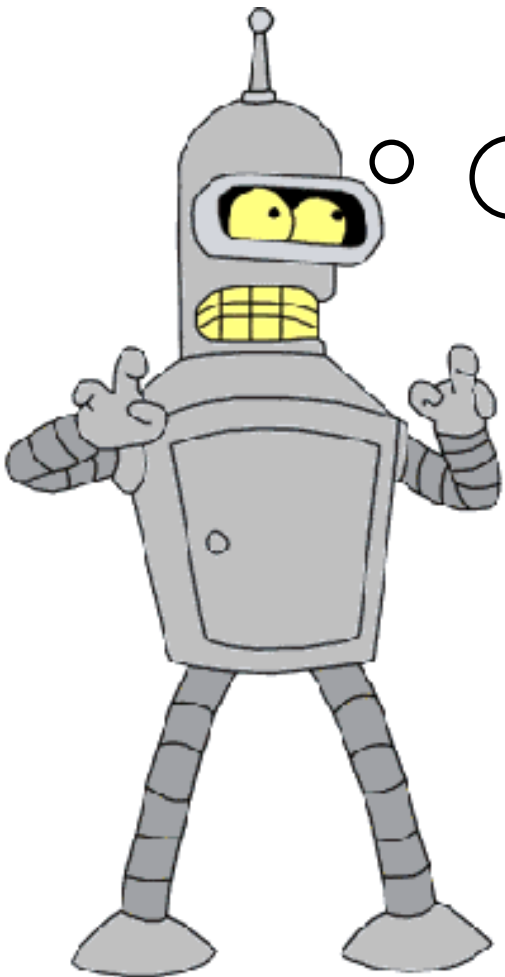


# OBJECTIVE:



To watch the programme 'Futurama' to understand how the media can influence a persons belief in God.

# OUTCOMES...

## Grade C

**All** - Will be able to give basic reasons how Futurama might influence a persons belief in God.

## Grade B

**Most** - Will be able to give detailed reasons how and why Futurama might influence a persons belief in God.

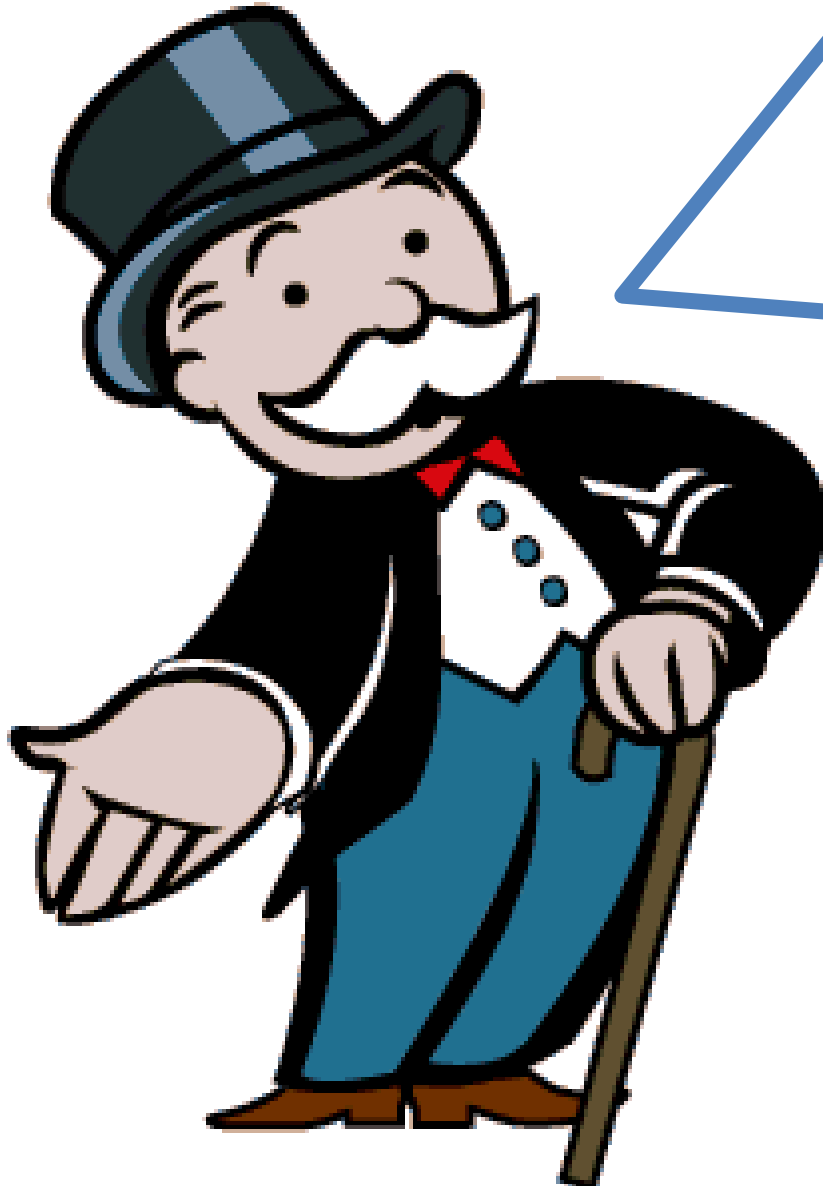
## Grade A-A\*

**Some** - Will be able to evaluate whether Futurama has influenced their own beliefs about God.

Your GOALS for  
the end of  
this lesson are...



# STARTER...



Lets play a game...

God has been represented in many TV programmes and films.

Can you guess what programmes/films the following are from?



**THE  
SIMPSONS** TM

# Bruce Almighty



# FAMILY GUY



**DOGMA**



SOUTH  
PARK



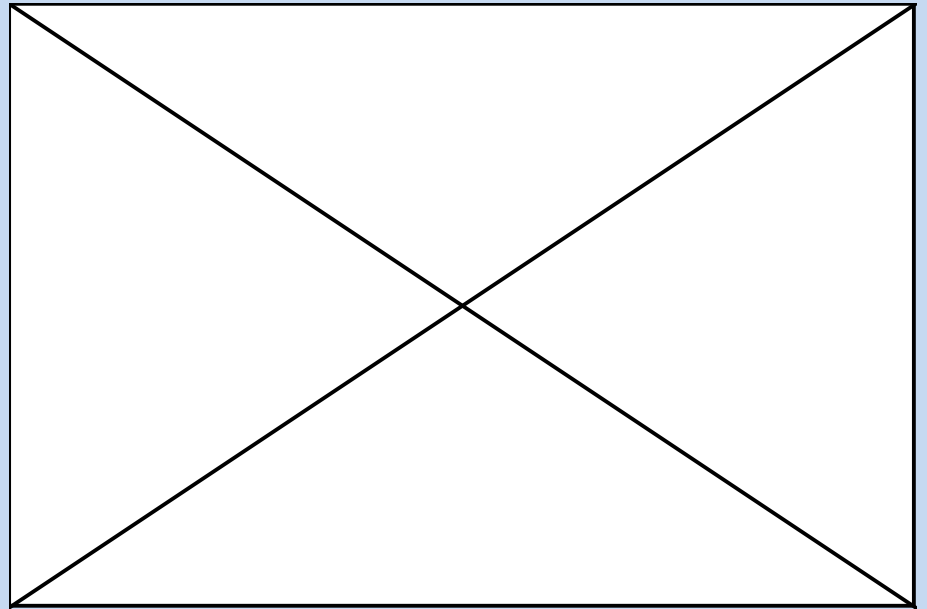


**FUTURAMA**

# Religion and the Media...

Some programmes can show religious belief as something to laugh at and ridicule. They may suggest that people who believe in God are crazy, slightly strange or even dangerous.

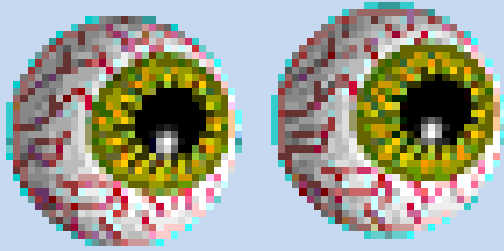
**What are the positives and negatives of shows like this?**





*Futurama* is an American animated science fiction sitcom created by Matt Groening (*The Simpsons*).

The series follows the adventures of a late 20th-century New York City pizza delivery boy, Philip J. Fry, who, after being unwittingly cryogenically frozen for a thousand years, finds employment at Planet Express, an interplanetary delivery company in the retro futuristic 31st-century.



# Watch the following episode of Futurama...

Answer the following questions on your sheet. Remember to include as much detail as possible (**ESPECIALLY EXAMPLES**)...

**Outline the programme and episode**  
(What is Futurama? What is the episode about?)

**How might it encourage some people to believe in God?**  
(How does this episode of Futurama encourage people to believe in God?)

**How might it encourage some people not to believe in God?**  
(How does this episode of Futurama encourage people not to believe in God?)

**Did it affect your belief in God?**  
(YES/NO? - You must explain **WHY** using **EXAMPLES**)

Have you included enough detail?...

## Outline the programme and episode

**Programme** = Futurama follows the adventures of a late 20th-century New York City pizza delivery boy, Philip J. Fry, who, after being unwittingly cryogenically frozen for a thousand years, finds employment at Planet Express, an interplanetary delivery company in the retro futuristic 31st-century.

**Episode** = Bender is accidentally shot into space and becomes God to a race of tiny aliens only to fail in that position and meet the Real Thing.

Have you included enough detail?...

## How might it encourage some people to believe in God?

- It shows religion can have a funny side, it doesn't always have to be serious - e.g. - It pokes fun at God in a harmless way
- It shows how hard it must be for God e.g. - Bender fails and kills the race he is God to.
  - It offers an explanation to the problem of evil and suffering e.g. God explains why he does not get directly involved with humanity (works through others).
- It shows God answers prayers e.g. He answers Fry's request by sending Bender back to earth.
  - It shows God as an eternal omnipotent, omniscient, benevolent being beyond human understanding e.g. - the example of God given in the show.
  - It offers an explanation for unanswered prayers e.g.- Bender answers his peoples prayers but not always as they expect or want.

Have you included enough detail?...

How might it encourage some people not to believe in God?

- It shows that way in the future God will still not be proven e.g. - The religious group attempting to prove God's existence.
- It gives the idea religion is responsible for war e.g. Bender (God) caused his civilisations to fight.
- It implies God is responsible for natural evil e.g. Bender (God) floods the village.
  - It shows life on other planets which does not fit with biblical accounts of creation.
  - It belittles biblical stories such as Moses and the 10 Commandments.
- It shows religion as being useless in times of need e.g. When Fry seeks help to find Bender but religion can only offer prayer.
  - It implies God is responsible for Moral Evil e.g. Bender (God) is behind the death of his civilisation.

# Plenary...

Do you think programmes about religion can affect your belief in God?

*Give two reasons for your point of view.*

**4marks**

Think about what you have looked at in today's lesson.

Make one **POINT** with an **EXAMPLE** that you could use when answering this exam question.

