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<p>What do you know?</p>	<p>What do you want to know?</p>	<p>What have you learned?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Japan, people combine religions and religious activities based on what seems most effective. • Buddhism is established in Japan because it was considered impressive and effective as it came with rich iconography and history. • People visit Shintō shrines when babies are born, marry in Christian ceremonies, and have Buddhist funerals: non-exclusivity of faith is culturally normal. • ‘New religions’ and ‘New New Religions’ are new faiths with numerous adherents, mixing ideas from spirituality and established faiths, and focused on practical gains like healing. • Up to 95% of the population visit Shintō shrines at New Year, and families assigned to Buddhist temples exceed Japan’s population, implying a high level of religious observance. • Despite this, most people describe themselves as ‘not religious’ in surveys, implying religious adherence is opt-in, opt-out depending on the circumstances, and people may carry out more religious behaviour when they feel they need help. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific case studies or example showing that ‘religious activities’ are motivated by the seeking of practical gain, not supported by true or pre-existing faith. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader, I., & Tanabe, G. (1998). Introduction. In <i>Practically Religious: Worldly Benefits and the Common Religion of Japan</i> (pp. 1-36). Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press. Retrieved March 23, 2020, from www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wr40r.4 • Case study of Michiko Watanabe, an office lady who attended a new religion a friend had said had brought her practical benefits in the past and prayed to be kept on at her job past 30, when women are usually pressured to retire to get married. • Watanabe was asked to stay at her job, so she decided her prayers had worked, and therefore the religion was powerful, and encouraged friends and relatives to join too. • Analysis: W joined because of practical reasons, not pre-existing religious belief. When her wish came true, she decided a prayer had been granted and became a believer and proselytiser. This supports the argument that religious activity is practically motivated.

