

Olympiad of RE in Estonia

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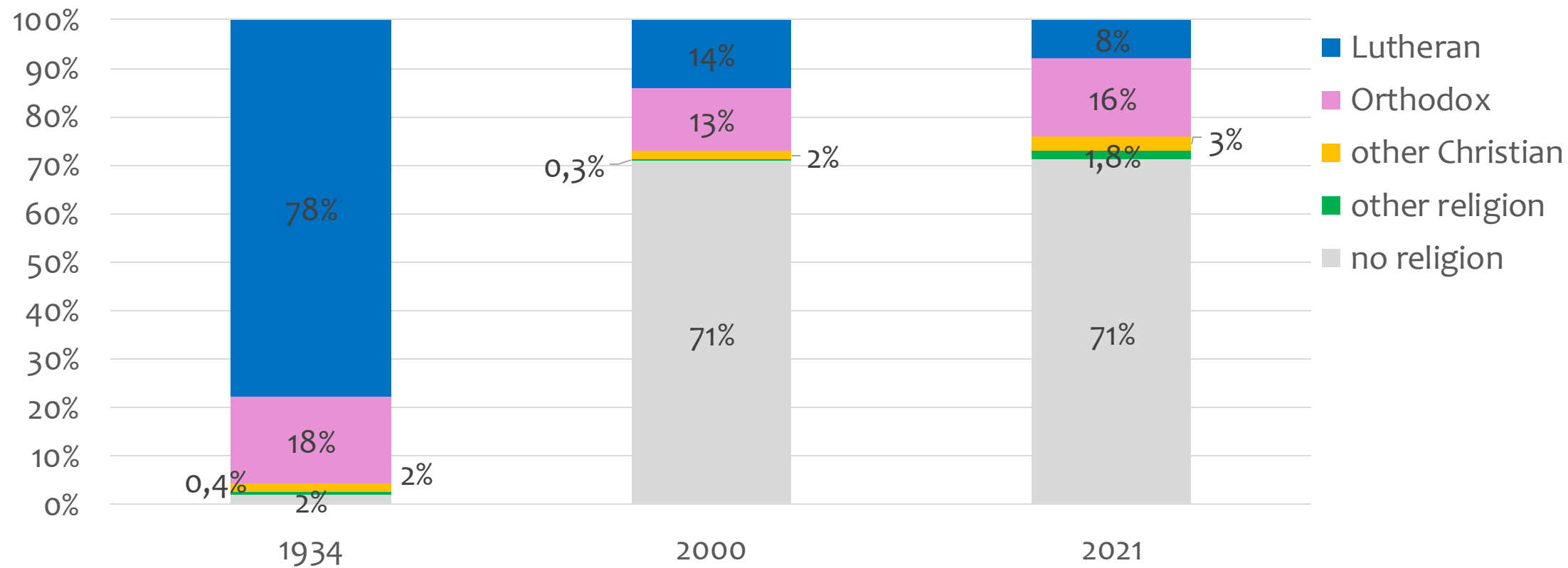
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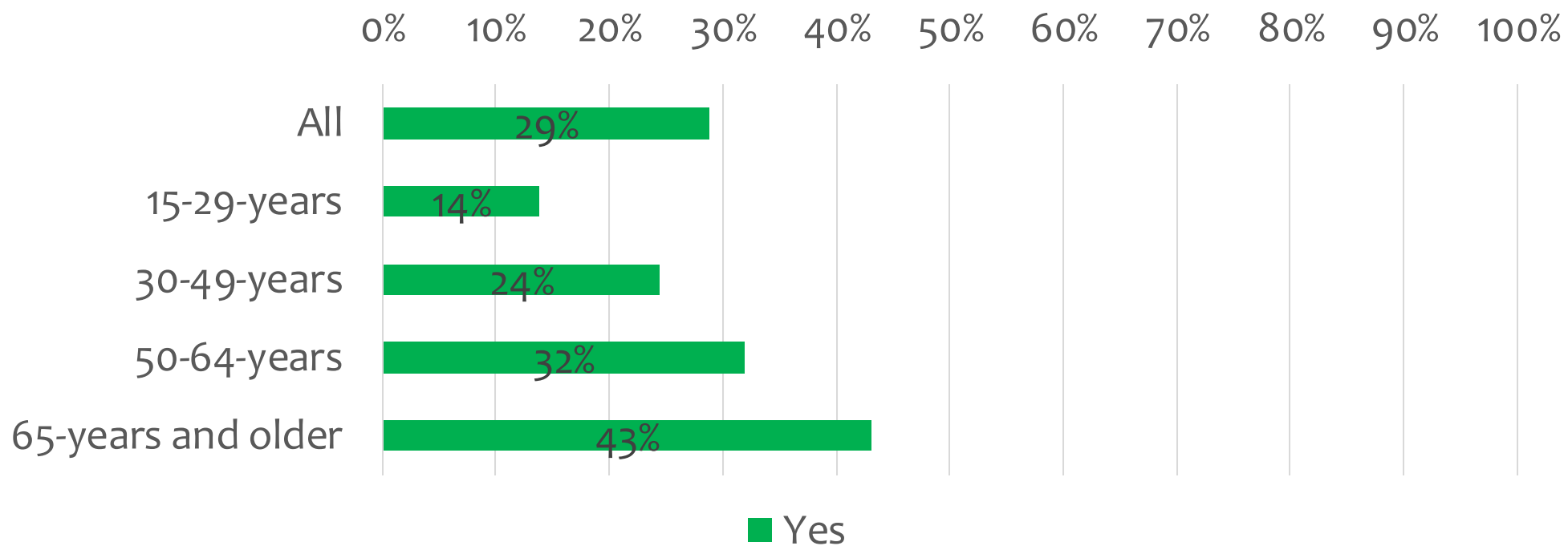
Religious composition

RE in Estonia

Olympiad(s)



Do you have a religious affiliation?



Recent history of RE

New opportunity

- Voluntary subject in few schools

1990s

RE in national curricula

2010s

2000s

Pille Valk and new curriculum of RE



RE Curriculum: aims

provide knowledge about religions;

support moral development;

develop an open identity and readiness for dialogue across different religious and non religious beliefs;

support development of critical thinking

Curriculum of RE: contents for basic school

Customs, stories and values (age 7-10 years)

- Festivities and traditions
- Selected stories from different religious traditions
- Values education



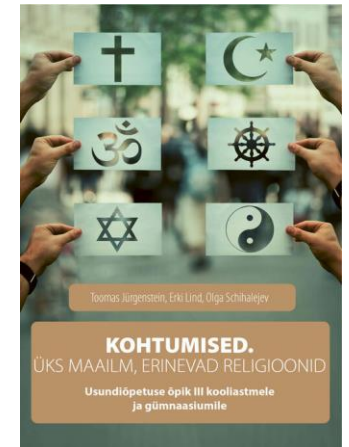
Values and choices (age 10-13 years)

- Ethics (in religions and own life)
- Values, me and other people



One world, different religions (age 13-16 years)

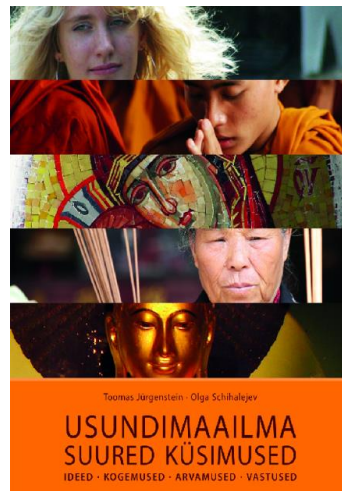
- Symbols
- Founders
- Holy texts and books
- Ethics
- Festivities and rituals
- Holy places



Curriculum of RE: contents for upper secondary school

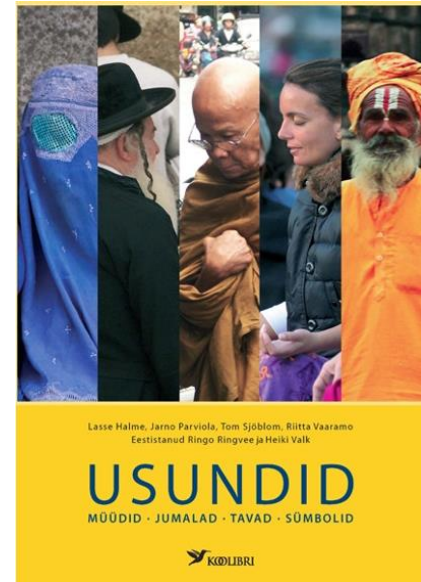
People and Religion

- Concept of religion. Scientific research on religion
- Philosophy of Religion
- Comparative History of Religions
- Psychology of Religion
- Sociology of Religion



The Religious Landscape of Estonia

- History of religion in Estonia
- Religions, Denominations and Religious Movements

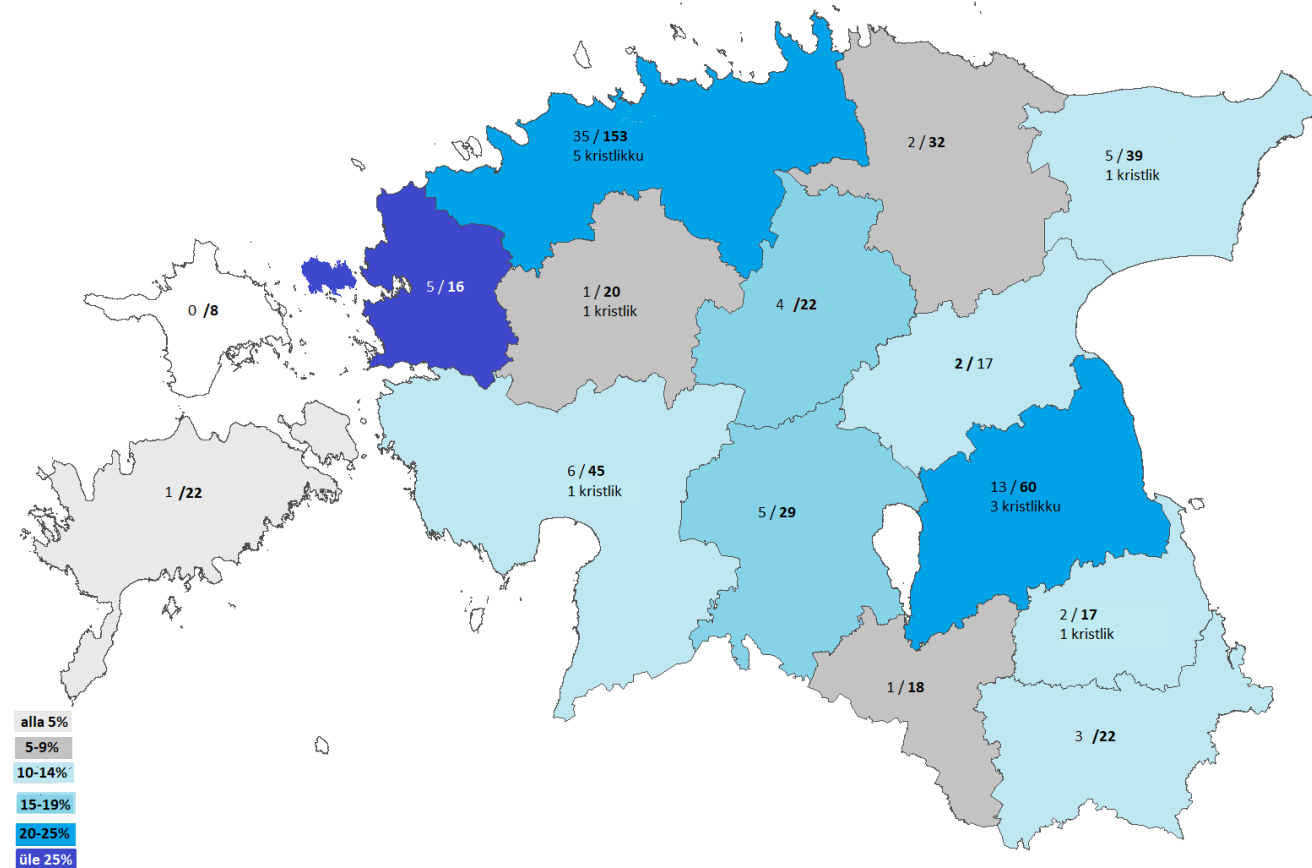


Religious education in Estonia nowadays

Mostly no RE

Optional non-confessional RE
in municipal and state schools

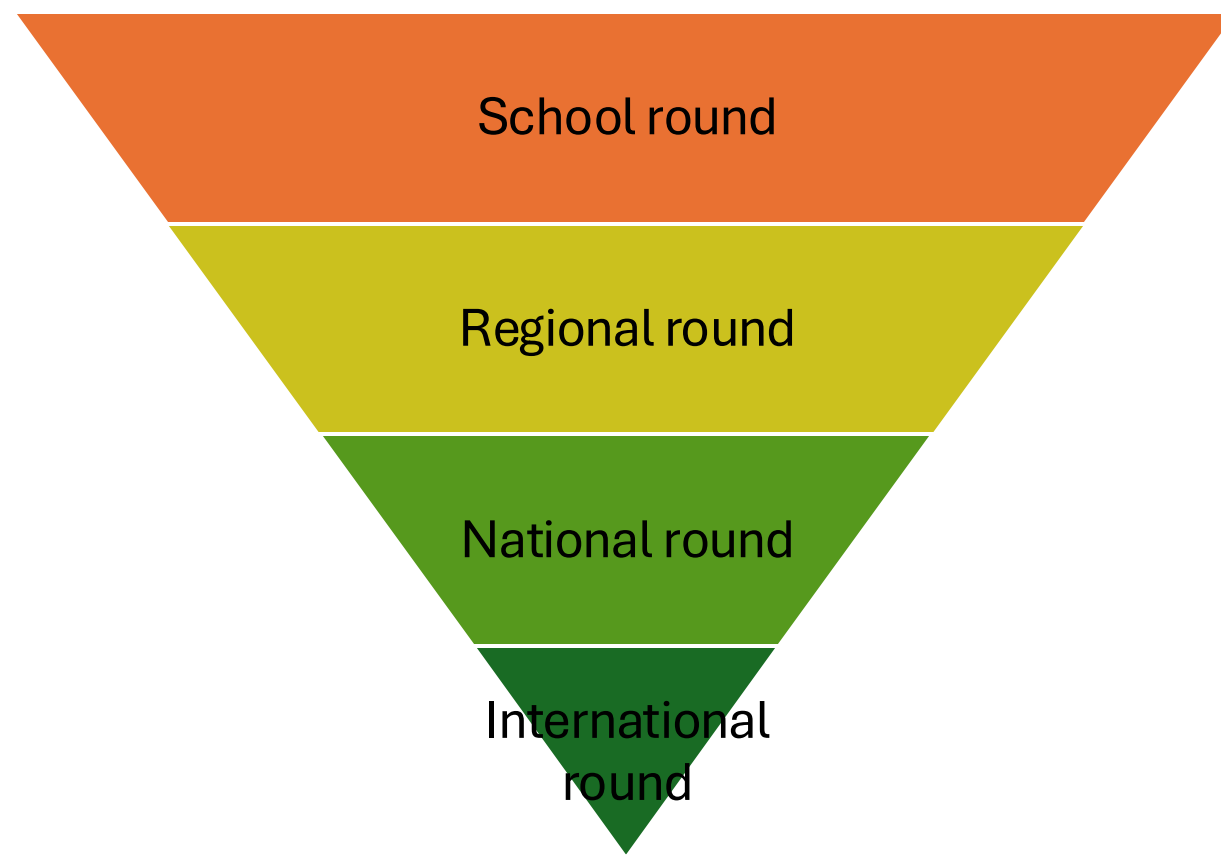
Religious schools with
confessional RE



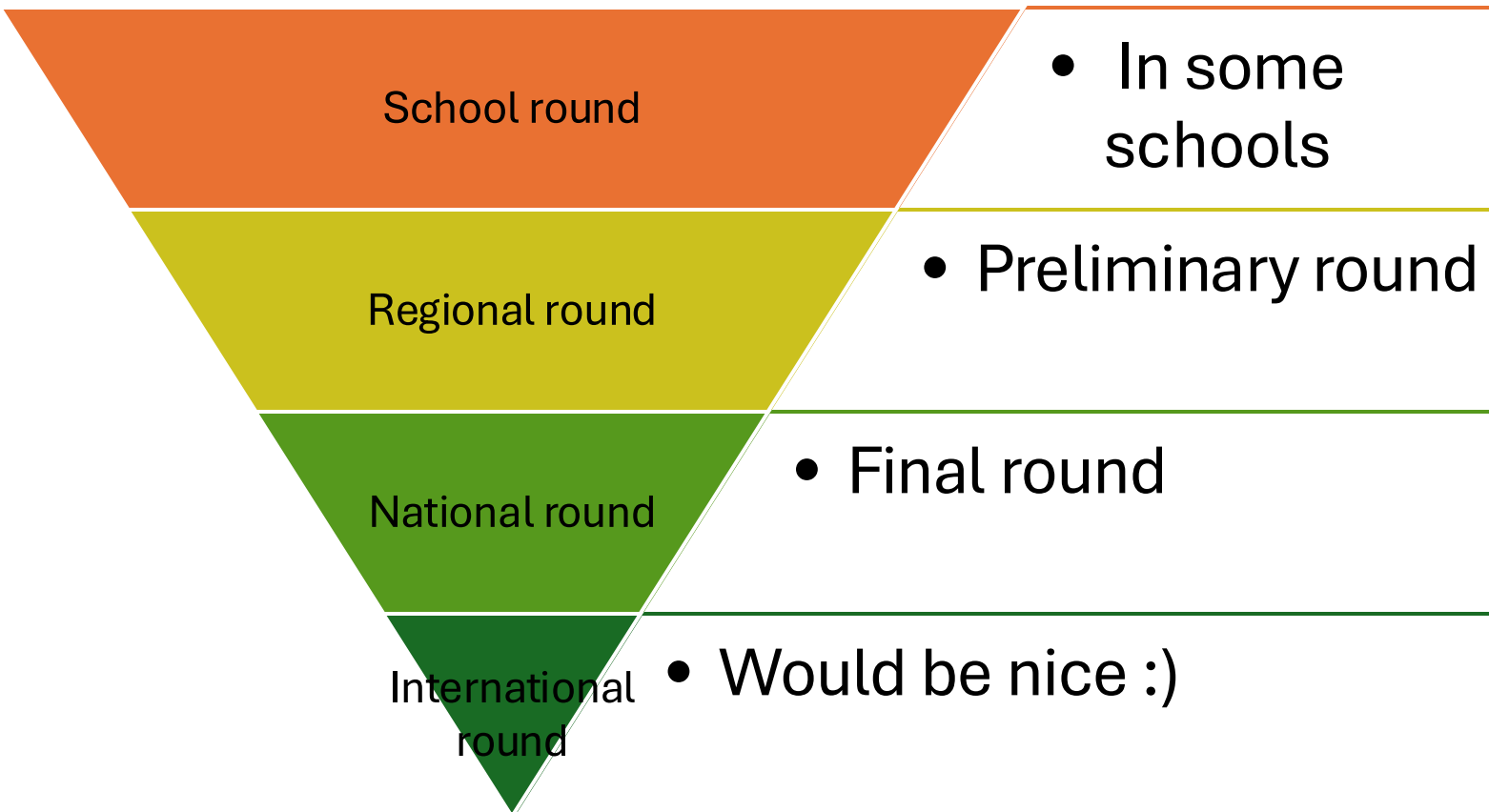
Olympiad system in general

- subject-based or field-specific
- A national Olympiad
 - is regularly occurring
 - a nation wide
 - multi-round
 - academic competition
- 27 olympiads
 - 10000 in national rounds
 - RE: 100-200
- Aims
 - Stimulate interest &
 - motivate self-development

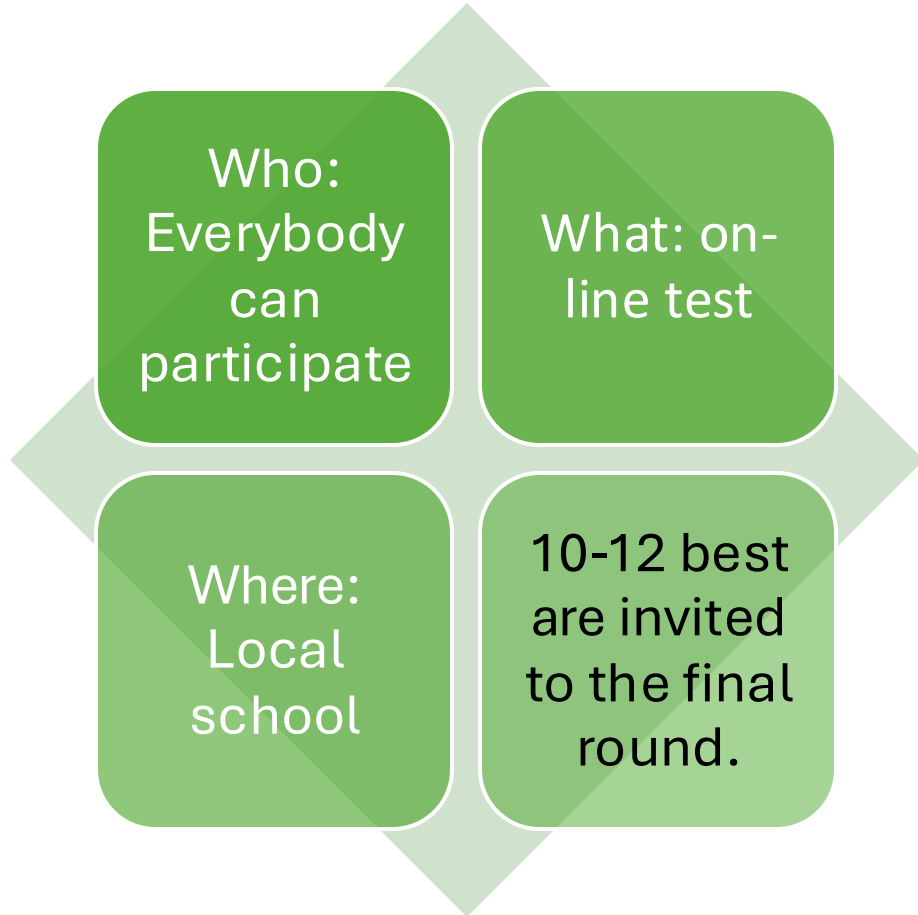
- Organiser:
Youth academy (founded in 1965)



RE Olympiad



Preliminary round



Types of the questions:

- Multiple choice (1 or several right answers), e.g:
 - The Torah consists of...
 - 4 Gospels
 - 5 Books of Moses
 - 613 Psalms of David
 - Hanukkah, Purim, and Sukkot
 - Hinayana and Mahayana
- Find pairs, e.g.:
 - Religion and special day
 - Text/place and name
 - Term and explanation
 - Year on event
- Fill the gaps
- Ranking, e.g:
 - religions starting with the largest by number of followers

Final round

Choose one of four. Some examples:

Prepared
speech

Test

Debate

- 2025: Religion and nature
 - Creation without a creator
 - What makes a place sacred?
 - The end of the world – God's plan or human error?
 - Faith and greenwashing
- 2024: Worldviews in a changing world
 - Religion – for women or men?
 - Tradition and renewal in religions
 - Green religion?
 - The commercialization of religion

Final round

Prepared
speech

Test

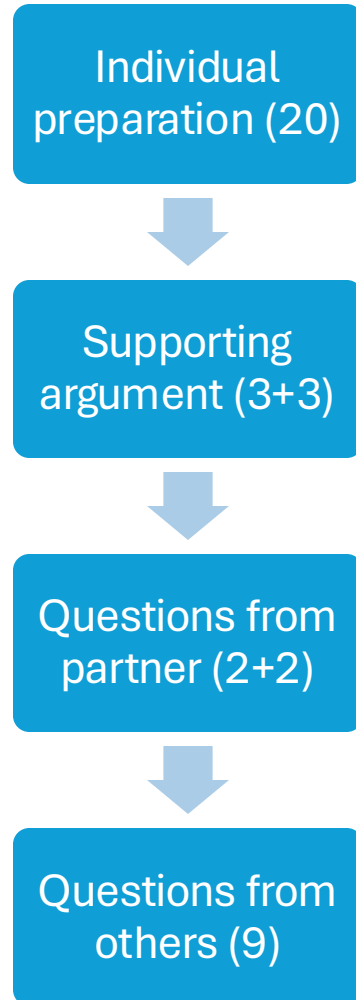
e.g.

Debate

- What/Who is on picture?
 - Holy places
 - Representatives of religions
 - Holy texts
 - Famous followers (name, religion, title/profession)
- Explain terms
- From what religions are following texts?
- Texts – what model of Religion & Science?

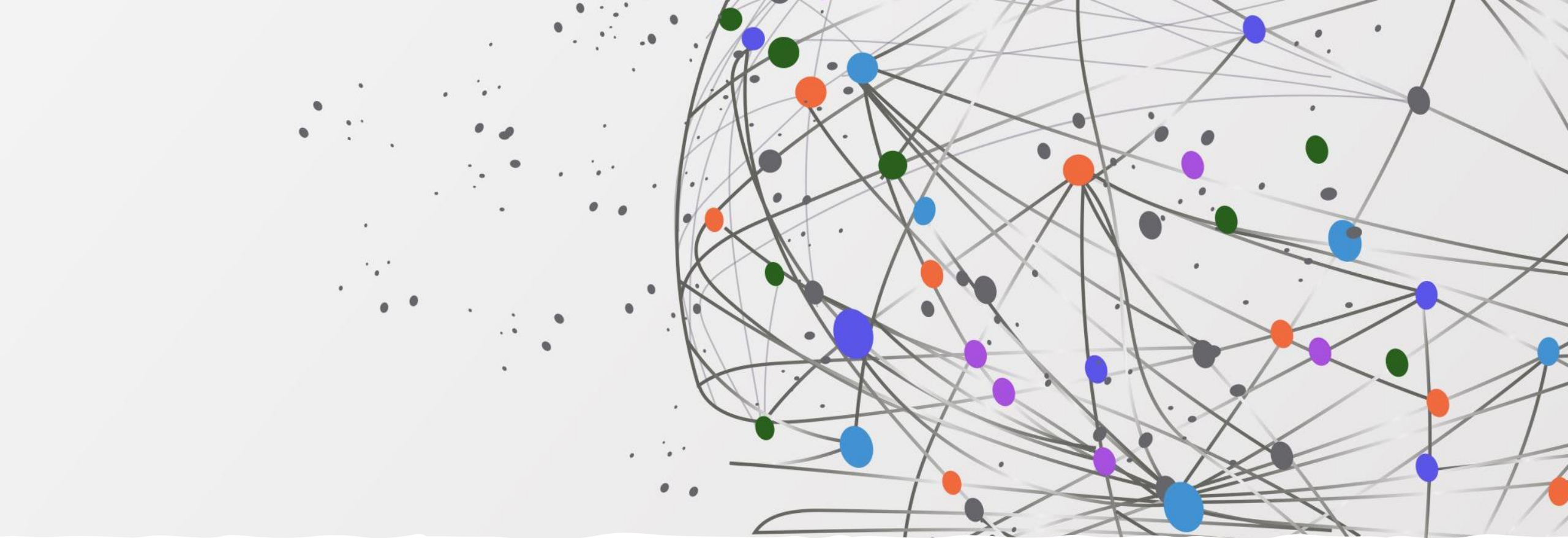


Final round: debate



E.g.:

- Religion **gives** / takes away freedom
- It is **possible** / impossible to revive ancient religion.
- The state **may** / may not restrict the activities of religious associations.
- **Freedom of religion is more important than freedom of speech.** / Freedom of speech is more important than freedom of religion.
- Religion is like **forest** / town / **river**



If you are interested in organising olympics of RE nationally or internationally, please contact me:

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