

GCE AS



# WJEC GCE AS in RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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## GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS Version 2 - January 2021

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## Contents

<b>UNIT 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION</b>	
OPTION A: <b>CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>3</b>
OPTION B: <b>ISLAM</b>	<b>6</b>
OPTION C: <b>JUDAISM</b>	<b>8</b>
OPTION D: <b>BUDDHISM</b>	<b>10</b>
OPTION E: <b>HINDUISM</b>	<b>15</b>
OPTION F: <b>SIKHISM</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Unit 2A: AN INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION AND ETHICS</b>	
GENERAL TERMS	<b>22</b>
THEME 1: ETHICAL THOUGHT	<b>22</b>
THEME 2: AQUINAS' NATURAL LAW	<b>23</b>
THEME 3: SITUATION ETHICS	<b>25</b>
THEME 4: UTILITARIANISM	<b>27</b>
<b>UNIT 2B: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION</b>	
THEME 1: ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - INDUCTIVE	<b>28</b>
THEME 2: ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - DEDUCTIVE	<b>31</b>
THEME 3: CHALLENGES TO RELIGIOUS BELIEF- THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING	<b>32</b>
THEME 4: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE	<b>34</b>

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CHRISTIANITY: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>atonement</b>	An action or series of actions – usually a sacrifice – by which guilt might be removed. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is a Jewish feast based on Leviticus 23:26ff. Appropriated by Christian theology as a way of understanding the significance of Jesus' death (e.g. Hebrews 9:6ff).
<b>Augustine</b>	Early Christian theologian and philosopher (354-430).
<b>baptism</b>	The rite whereby a person is made a member of the church. From the Greek word baptizo, meaning to 'dip', 'submerge', or 'cleanse'.
- <b>adult/believer</b>	The voluntary baptism of adults (usually aged 13+) who have declared belief in Jesus.
- <b>infant</b>	The baptism of babies, normally in the belief that the ritual will remove latent original sin.
<b>Barth, Karl</b>	Highly influential Reformed Protestant theologian (1886-1968).
<b>birth narratives</b>	Accounts in the gospels of Matthew and Luke of the conception and birth of Jesus of Nazareth.
<b>Christmas</b>	The annual celebration of Jesus' birth.
<b>Christus Victor theory</b>	A view on atonement which states that Jesus' death defeated the power of evil, which had dominated humankind. The term comes from the title of Gustav 's Aulén's book, first published in 1931. Aulén writes in description of Christus Victor, "the work of Christ is first and foremost a victory over the powers which hold mankind in bondage: sin, death, and the devil." Jesus through his death, rescued or liberated humanity from the slavery of sin.
<b>conscience</b>	Moral sense of right and wrong; inner feeling as to goodness or otherwise.
<b>consubstantiation</b>	The doctrine (particularly in Lutheran belief) that the body and blood of Jesus Christ coexist with – but are not the same as – the bread and wine used in a celebration of the Eucharist.
<b>Council of Trent</b>	Ecumenical Roman Catholic council held in northern Italy between 1545 and 1563 in response to the Protestant Reformation. Famously defined the relationship between faith and works in justification and had lasting impact on Roman Catholic liturgy and practice.
<b>Donatism</b>	The term used to describe a particular North African Christian sect in the Roman province of Africa in the fourth and fifth centuries, whose beliefs regarding sacraments caused controversy.
<b>Easter</b>	The annual festival of Jesus' death and especially resurrection. A Christian appropriation of the Jewish Passover: Christ's death equated with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. Subsequently, Good Friday came to be celebrated separately; Easter then more usually becoming associated with resurrection.
<b>Eastern Orthodox</b>	That part of the Church that developed following the Great Schism of 1054. Its theology derives from the Eastern Fathers of the patristic period. The Eastern Orthodox Church may be further defined in terms of national identity e.g. Russian, Greek etc. but should not be confused with the Oriental Orthodox Churches, e.g. Armenian, Coptic, etc.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Eucharist</b>	One of the titles used to describe the rite of the Christian Church associated with the Last Supper that Jesus is said to have celebrated with his disciples, in which elements of bread and wine (usually) are shared among participants. From the Greek, <i>eucharisiteo</i> , to “give thanks”. Also used generically to describe the rite, however celebrated. Also known as “communion” or ‘Holy Communion’.
<b>Fourth Lateran Council</b>	Roman Catholic council held in 1215 and presided over by Pope Innocent III. Put forth the idea that, during the Eucharist, the bread and wine are “transubstantiated” into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
<b>harmonisation</b>	The attempt to reconcile two or more contradictory biblical accounts (or the editorial process within the biblical texts with the same goal).
<b>impassibility</b>	The doctrine that God does not experience emotions based on, or caused by, the actions of others (e.g. pleasure, pain, passion).
<b>incarnation, doctrine of the</b>	The belief within Christian theology that the second person of the Trinity – the eternal Son, became human in the man Jesus of Nazareth, through his being born of the Holy Spirit of the woman Mary.
<b>justification</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>by faith alone</b></li> <li>- <b>by works alone</b></li> </ul>	<p>Making people worthy before God.</p> <p>The idea that it is only belief in Jesus that makes people worthy before God.</p> <p>The idea that good acts make people worthy before God.</p>
<b>kenotic model</b>	The term kenosis comes from the Greek verb 'kenóō', meaning "to make empty." The kenotic model seeks to explain an idea mentioned in Philippians 2, where Christ is seen as "emptying himself" to "take the form of a servant". Its main concern is to solve some of the difficulties arising from Jesus having both a divine nature and a human nature. One understanding of the kenotic model of the incarnation holds the view that Jesus, the Son, deliberately gave up or set aside some of his divine attributes (especially omniscience or omnipotence) as a part of the incarnation. Some kenotic models focus on the setting aside of Christ's own will so that he could fully show what it means to be wholly submitted to the Divine. The idea is also an indication of the importance of submission to God's will, and an indication of Jesus' ethic of sacrifice and servanthood.
<b>kerygma</b>	The initial and essential proclamation of the gospel (and/or Christian) message.
<b>Luther, Martin</b>	Author of the German Protestant Reformation (1483-1546).
<b>memorialism</b>	The belief that the Eucharist is no more than an act in memory of Jesus.
<b>moral example theory</b>	Also known as the moral influence theory. This theory of atonement suggests that Jesus' life and death primarily provide a moral example to humanity. They can inspire humankind to lift themselves out of sin and grow towards union with God. Christ did not die to satisfy any principle of divine justice. His death was designed to greatly impress humankind with a sense of God's love, hopefully resulting in a softening of their hearts and leading them to repentance. Thus, the Atonement is directed towards persuading humankind to right action.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>redaction criticism</b>	In New Testament studies, a method of critical biblical scholarship in which the authors and editors of texts are viewed as creative interpreters of their source material (and the examination of the effects this may have on the text and its message).
<b>resurrection</b>	The means by which the dead return to life after death. Specifically, within Christianity, resurrection was believed to have been experienced by Jesus following his crucifixion. Understood by some Christians as the destiny for all or some human beings after death. The term can also be used in a more abstract sense to describe a mode of living experienced by Christians following conversion.
<b>sacrament(s)</b>	Sacred ceremonies which are believed to be means by which grace is conveyed to believers. The classic definition is 'an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace'. Nearly all churches (except Quakers and the Salvation Army) use the two 'dominical' sacraments – baptism and holy communion i.e. those explicitly commanded by Jesus, but with much difference of practice and interpretation. Catholics, Orthodox, and some Anglicans count confirmation, ordination, marriage, anointing and confession as lesser sacraments.
<b>substantial presence</b>	The whole and entire presence of both the divine and human aspects of Jesus Christ.
<b>substitution theory</b>	An umbrella term for beliefs that Jesus' death was as a substitute for others. Two common forms include the belief that Jesus died as a sacrifice on behalf of the people to free humanity, and the belief that, since the debt is owed to the divine (God) by the people (human), only Jesus (divine and human) could act as a sacrifice by God for the sake of humanity.
<b>transfinalization</b>	The term used by the Catholic theologian Karl Rahner (in place of transubstantiation) to describe his understanding of the Eucharist. The belief that the purpose of the bread and wine is altered by the words of consecration.
<b>transignification</b>	The belief that, at the moment of consecration, the bread and wine of the Eucharist take on the real significance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ (but the body and blood are not physically present).
<b>transubstantiation</b>	The belief that the bread and wine of the Eucharist become the actual body and blood of Christ when consecrated by a priest.
<b>Western Christianity</b>	Term used to describe the Latin church or the Catholic Church and a number of Protestant denominations (in contrast to the Eastern church).
<b>Zwingli, Ulrich</b>	Initial promoter and leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland (1484-1531).

AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Akhirah</b>	The Islamic doctrine of belief in judgement and the afterlife.
<b>Ashura</b>	Tenth day of month of Muharram; usually associated with the 10 days of Shi'a mourning and the 'festival of Ashura'.
<b>dhikr</b>	Meditation, lit. 'remembrance', that associates actions with specific recited prayers or devotional phrases.
<b>du'a</b>	Lit. 'Cry (of the heart)'; personal supplication or private devotional prayer.
<b>fard</b>	A compulsory action or rule in Islam.
<b>halal</b>	Lit. 'blessed' referring to an action that is permissible in Islam.
<b>haram</b>	A forbidden act in Islam.
<b>Hijrah</b>	Migration or 'flight' of Muhammad and his followers from Makkah to Madinah.
<b>Id-ul-Fitr</b>	Celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends, which is also the first day of Shawal, the tenth Islamic month.
<b>ijma</b>	Consensus of scholars on matters of religion or sharia.
<b>ijtihad</b>	Academic, internal struggle or 'personal struggle (through deep thought)'; the process of reasoning that recognised scholars use, arriving at ra'y (personal judgement or discretion) to establish matters of Islamic teaching and behaviour based upon what is in the Qur'an and Hadith.
<b>Imam</b>	Muslim leader or cleric; usually head of a local community or masjid.
<b>Islamophobia</b>	Lit. 'fear of Islam' but is irrational and based in prejudice or ignorance.
<b>Israfil</b>	The angel that blows the trumpet to announce the final Day of Judgement in Islam.
<b>Jahiliyya</b>	'Age of ignorance' referring to pre-Islamic Arabia.
<b>Jibril</b>	Angel that appeared to Muhammad at Hira to bring the revelation from God.
<b>Jummah</b>	Friday communal prayers at the masjid.
<b>makruh</b>	A disliked or offensive act in Islam.
<b>Malaikah</b>	The Islamic doctrine of belief in angels.
<b>masjid</b>	Mosque (lit. 'place of prostration').
<b>Mikail</b>	The angel of mercy.
<b>mujtahid</b>	An Islamic scholar competent in interpreting and applying sharia.
<b>muraqaba</b>	A specialised form of Sufi meditation.
<b>mustahab</b>	A neutral action left to individual discretion, neither encouraged nor discouraged, sometimes recommended but not essential.
<b>nabi</b>	A prophet of God.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>nadir</b>	A warner sent by God; term used to describe prophets and messengers also.
<b>nafilah</b>	All prayers other than the prescribed prayers fall into this category; sometimes referred to as nawafil.
<b>niyat</b>	Lit. 'intention'; used in reference to performing an act for the sake of God or with the intention of offering the act as a form of devotion to God.
<b>Qur'an</b>	Holy Book of Islam.
<b>Ramadan</b>	Ninth month of the Islamic calendar used for fasting to commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.
<b>rasul</b>	A messenger of God.
<b>salah</b>	Prayer; usually refers to the five prescribed daily prayers.
<b>shahadah</b>	Lit. 'declaration' or 'testimony'; the first pillar of Islam, "I declare that there is one God* and Muhammad is the messenger of God". * or "no God but God"
<b>shirk</b>	Unforgivable sin of associating partners with God.
<b>Sura</b>	A chapter in the Qur'an.
<b>tahajjud</b>	A voluntary and recommended night prayer performed by Muslims. It is not one of the five obligatory prayers.
<b>tasbih</b>	Meditational prayer (a form of dhikr or 'meditation') usually involving recitation.
<b>tawhid</b>	The Islamic teaching of absolute monotheism.
<b>Ummah</b>	The community of believers in Islam, sometimes referred to as 'brotherhood'.
<b>wird</b>	Sufi practice of meditational prayer.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF JUDAISM: GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Amidah</b>	Lit. 'standing': a standing prayer, recited at synagogue. Originally it had 18 blessings (Ashkenazim: Shemoneh Esreh), it now has 19: praising God's power, knowledge, forgiveness, etc. It derives from the time of the first Temple, and this ancient prayer is recited first silently by the congregation, then read aloud by the reader.
<b>Aseret ha-D'ibrot</b>	Lit. 'Ten sayings' known as the Ten Commandments.
<b>bet din</b>	Lit. 'House of judgement' associated with the term synagogue.
<b>bet k'nesset</b>	Lit. 'House of meeting' associated with the term synagogue.
<b>bet midrash</b>	Lit. 'House of study' associated with the term synagogue.
<b>brit milah</b>	Circumcision; religious rite performed by a qualified mohel on all Jewish boys, usually on the eighth day after birth.
<b>covenant</b>	An agreement or contract.
<b>Haggadah</b>	Jewish text establishing the order of the Pesach Seder.
<b>Hasidism</b>	Ultra-Orthodox traditionalist movement, founded by Baal Shem Tov in 18th Century Poland.
<b>Kabbalah</b>	Jewish mystical tradition developed in the 11th and 12th centuries, culminating in the Zohar, 'Illumination' or 'Brightness', the classical work of the Kabbalah.
<b>kavod</b>	Used in the Hebrew scriptures to describe the 'glory of God'. The word used for the energy that is encountered in moments of awe like the revelation on Mt. Sinai trying to describe the experience of standing in the presence of God. Lit. 'heavy' or 'weighty', but often transferred as honour or glory it is used in the Hebrew Scriptures to describe the 'physical' vision of God's presence.
<b>Kol Nidre</b>	'All vows'; prayer recited on the evening of Yom Kippur.
<b>machzor</b>	Special prayer book for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
<b>Messiah</b>	The doctrine / belief that no Jewish thinker has given up entirely, in the coming of 'the anointed one', who will usher in a new era for mankind, when all will worship the true God in peace.
<b>mikveh</b>	Cleansing pool sometimes found in a synagogue.
<b>minyan</b>	A minimum of ten adult Jews (an adult Jew is any Jewish male who has passed his thirteenth birthday) required to form a Jewish congregation. The number ten was derived from the first verse of Psalm 82, which reads: "God stands in the congregation of God."
<b>mitzvot</b>	Commandments.
<b>monotheism</b>	Belief that there is only one God.
<b>nefesh</b>	A life/living being.
<b>olam ha-ba</b>	Lit. 'the world that is to come' describing the afterlife.



TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Orthodox</b>	Jews who maintain traditional Jewish beliefs and practices, based on the Torah and the Talmud.
<b>Pesach</b>	'Passover'; Spring festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt; one of the three biblical pilgrim festivals.
<b>pikuach nefesh</b>	The obligation to save a life; the Jewish notion of the 'sanctity of life'. Pikuach nefesh is derived from the biblical verse, "Neither shall you stand by the blood of your neighbour" (Lev. 19:16). According to pikuach nefesh a person must do everything in their power to save the life of another.
<b>Pittsburgh Platform</b>	Adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the principal reform rabbinical organisation in 1889. It contains the basic statements of Reform Judaism in America.
<b>Reform</b>	Jews who question some Orthodox beliefs and traditions and follow a more liberal, modern form of Judaism.
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	'Head of the year'; Jewish New Year festival.
<b>shekinah</b>	English transliteration of a Hebrew noun meaning 'dwelling' or 'settling' and denotes the dwelling or settling of the divine presence of God and his cosmic glory.
<b>Seder</b>	The Seder is a ritual performed by Jewish families to remember the story of the liberation of their ancestors from slavery in ancient Egypt. A plate, loaded with symbolic food helps the retelling.
<b>Sefer Torah</b>	A handwritten copy of the Torah.
<b>Shema</b>	'Hear'; a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which affirms belief in one God; used as a creed in daily prayers and placed in mezuzot and tefillah.
<b>Shul</b>	Lit. 'School' associated with the term synagogue.
<b>tashlikh</b>	Ritual washing as part Rosh Hashanah to cast away sins, usually performed in a river, sea or spring.
<b>tefillah</b>	Prayer.
<b>Torah</b>	Meaning 'Instruction' or 'Teaching'. In a limited sense it can mean only the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. However, it can also mean the whole of Jewish teaching.
<b>tzedakah</b>	Giving or charity.
<b>yad</b>	A Jewish ritual pointer, popularly known as a Torah pointer, used by the reader to follow the text during the Torah reading from the parchment Torah scrolls.
<b>yeshiva</b>	Jewish institution that focuses on the study of traditional religious texts, primarily the Talmud and Torah study.
<b>yetzer hara</b>	The potential for humans to behave badly. Evil inclination.
<b>yetzer hatov</b>	The potential for humans to behave well. Good inclination.
<b>Yom Kippur</b>	Day of Atonement; fast day occurring on the 10th day after Rosh Hashanah; a solemn day of prayer and repentance.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>anatta (P) anatman (Skt)</b>	'No-self' or 'not-self'. The view that there is nothing about the person which persists eternally without change.
<b>anicca (P) anitya (Skt)</b>	Impermanence, change – one of the three marks of existence.
<b>archetype</b>	A perfect example or model of something.
<b>Arhat (Skt) Arahant (P)</b>	'Worthy One' – the highest attainment in Theravada Buddhism.
<b>Bhumi (Skt)</b>	Stage on the bodhisattva path.
<b>Bodhi Tree</b>	The devotional name given to the pipal/banyan/fig tree under which tradition states Siddhartha became enlightened.
<b>bodhisattva (Skt)</b>	'Enlightenment Being'. In the Mahayana, a being who has postponed entry into nirvana in order to assist others.
<b>Brahmin (Skt)</b>	The highest caste in Indian society. The Buddha criticised the caste system, and the power held by the Brahmins.
<b>Buddha (P, Skt)</b>	'Enlightened or Awakened One'. This term can refer to the 'historical Buddha'—Siddhartha Gautama (Skt) (also known as Sakyamuni, Siddhattha Gotama (P)). It can also mean the state to which Mahayana Buddhists aspire, or it can be used as a term describing the state of an infinite number of enlightened beings. An example: Amida Buddha.
<b>caste (jati)</b>	Subdivision within each varna in Indian traditions, usually linked to occupation.
<b>celestial being</b>	Some buddhas and bodhisattvas are described as celestial beings. This means that they are not thought of as humans, but as beings that manifest in other realms. Buddhists believe that there are many other realms in addition to this human one.
<b>compassion</b>	(Sanskrit <i>karuna</i> ). One of the twin aspects of enlightenment (the other being wisdom).
<b>connectedness</b>	Paticcasamuppada (P) Pratitya samutpada (Skt) - the way that things exist i.e. related or connected to each other.
<b>dana (P)</b>	'Giving'. Lay people offer dana to the sangha, and in doing so gain merit.
<b>dasa sila (P)</b>	The ten precepts observed by novice nuns/monks and by those observing retreats in Buddhist monasteries.
<b>dhamma (P) / dharma (Skt)</b>	In Buddhism, one of the three jewels; the teachings; or the practice of truth. Not to be confused with the Hindu use of the term as duty or obligation.
<b>doctrines</b>	Teachings.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>dukkha (P) / duhkha (Skt)</b>	The human condition. There is no satisfactory equivalent in English and it is often translated as 'unsatisfactoriness', 'suffering', 'frustration'. It is the first of the Four Noble Truths and the Third Mark of Existence.
<b>dukkha-dukkha (P)</b>	Physical, emotional and mental pain.
<b>enlightened beings</b>	Celestial or human beings who are considered enlightened. Often enlightened beings are seen as demonstrating particular aspects of enlightenment, such as wisdom or compassion.
<b>enlightenment</b>	The goal of Buddhists, and the attainment of the Buddha under the bodhi tree. Synonymous with nirvana, though different traditions define it in different ways.
<b>ethical principles</b>	Rules of right conduct and morality used in making moral decisions.
<b>Four Noble Truths</b>	The Buddha's first teaching in a place known as the Deer Park in Isipatana to the five ascetics who had previously been his companions in the forest. They are the foundations of all the teachings the Buddha gave, a framework into which everything fits. They are the truth of suffering, the truth of the cause of suffering, the truth of the end of suffering, the truth of the path leading to the end of suffering.
<b>Four Sights</b>	The four things the Buddha saw when he ventured outside the palace with his charioteer Channa: old age, illness, death, the religious ascetic. These four experiences marked a turning point in the Buddha's life. They led him to decide to leave the palace and look for a solution to human suffering and this quest is what motivated the rest of his life.
<b>historical buddha</b>	Shakyamuni – the human founder of the religion - as differentiated from other buddhas.
<b>historicity</b>	Historical authenticity.
<b>human condition</b>	The characteristics of human life. The Buddha diagnosed the human condition as having three marks of existence.
<b>impermanence</b>	The belief that nothing remains the same, is ever changing (anicca/anitya).
<b>initiation</b>	To grant somebody membership of a religion, organisation or society, traditionally by formal rites.
<b>insubstantiality</b>	Anicca/anitya – conditionality, everything is impermanent because it is dependent.
<b>kamma (P) karma (Skt)</b>	The relationship between intentions/actions and consequences (not to be confused with some Hindu senses of the term as the force which drives reincarnation).
<b>khandha (P) skandha (Skt)</b>	The five impermanent 'aggregates' or 'groups' which make up the appearance of a human being – matter/form, senses, perception, mental formations, consciousness
<b>lakshanas (P) laksanas (Skt)</b>	Marks/characteristics of existence/universal truths (dukkha, anicca and anatta).
<b>lay</b>	Not ordained. In Theravada those Buddhists who have not become, or who

	are not currently, monks or nuns. In some forms of Mahayana Buddhism there is a monk/lay distinction, in others there is not.
<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>lay precepts</b>	The five rules which members of the Sangha (lay and monks) accept as rules for living. They are not strict rules but guidelines that Buddhists should try to follow.
<b>magga</b>	'The way': the Noble Eightfold Path.
<b>Mahayana (Skt)</b>	'The Greater Vehicle'. One of the two major forms of Buddhism, the other being Theravada. Mahayana tends to emphasise that nirvana can be available here and now, and the notion of the bodhisattva.
<b>Mara</b>	Demon associated with desire and death who attempted to distract the Buddha from his meditation under the Bodhi tree, but whom the Buddha defeated.
<b>Maya</b>	The Buddha's mother – who is said to have died seven days after his birth.
<b>meditation</b>	This takes many different forms in Buddhism. It is usually the practice of training the mind to become calm and to experience reality as it really is. Some forms of Buddhism, such as Zen, see ordinary everyday life as a meditation. The Buddha himself meditated in order to become enlightened, and most Buddhists dedicate themselves to substantial periods of meditation every day.
<b>merit</b>	(Punna (P)/Punya (Skt) – positive karma.
<b>metta bhavana (P)</b>	Lovingkindness meditation.
<b>Middle Way</b>	The rejection of the extremes of comfort and asceticism. The idea of a middle way is very important in Buddhism and is a philosophical idea as well as a way of life.
<b>monastic precepts</b>	In addition to the five precepts which are followed by monastic and lay Buddhists there are others which are only followed by monks (227) and nuns (311).
<b>mudra (Skt)</b>	Hand gestures with particular meanings. Statues of enlightened beings always have mudras, so that they can be identified and associated with a specific Buddhist idea. Mudras are often used in rituals in Tibetan Buddhism.
<b>myth</b>	A traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice, belief or natural phenomenon.
<b>nibbana (P) nirvana (Skt)</b>	Literally 'a blowing out' (of the three fires of 'greed, hatred and ignorance, delusion, attachment and egoism). The goal and highest attainment for Buddhists. Nirvana is conceptualised in many different ways by different schools of Buddhism. It is seen as beyond definition, although terms such as 'bliss', 'the other shore', 'attainment' or 'goal' are often used in reference to it. This term is often defined negatively to avoid the problem of attempting to define something that is ineffable. It is sometimes seen as the opposite of samsara and dukkha.
<b>nirodha (P)</b>	Cessation – the third of the four noble truths.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Noble Eightfold Path</b>	The last of the Four Noble Truths. Right view, right resolution, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration. These provide the conditions for enlightenment.
<b>Pali Canon</b>	The Tipitaka (three baskets, made up of the Vinaya Pitaka, the Sutta Pitaka and the Abidhamma Pitaka); the corpus of scripture held to be authoritative by Theravada Buddhists.
<b>Parajikas (P)</b>	'Defeats' - four rules which if broken result in expulsion from the sangha.
<b>paramita (Skt)</b>	'Perfections' – characteristics of bodhisattva.
<b>patimokkha (P)</b>	The rules governing the conduct of monks and nuns.
<b>pessimistic</b>	A tendency to stress the adverse aspects of a situation or event or to expect the worst possible outcome.
<b>Pratityasamutpada (Skt) / Paticcasamuppada (P)</b>	Often translated as 'Conditioned Co-production', 'Dependent Origination'. A description of reality, denoting that all phenomena are causally linked.
<b>precepts</b>	The basic obligations undertaken by a Buddhist: five for lay people (eight on Uposatha days) and ten for novice monks and nuns. There are also 227 rules in the patimokkha.
<b>Punna (P) / Punya (Skt)</b>	'Merit' – a store of good karma accruing from good deeds/ generosity/ religious practice.
<b>reality</b>	The state of being real. Buddhists believe that enlightenment allows a person to see the true reality of things.
<b>rebirth</b>	The idea that one life is caused by another. The doctrine that we pass through many lives in the cycle of samsara.
<b>refuge, going for/taking</b>	The practice of reciting the formula: 'I take refuge in the Buddha, I take refuge in the Dhamma, I take refuge in the Sangha'.
<b>reincarnation</b>	The Hindu idea that the essence of personal self-survives without our body continues after death and joins another body to live a new life. This process happens for an unimaginably long time until liberation is reach liberation (moksha). Buddhism emphasises rebirth rather than reincarnation.
<b>renunciation</b>	Self-denial practised for religious reasons, such as giving up one's ties with family and community in order to follow a spiritual life. Also known in Buddhism as 'Going Forth'. The 'great renunciation' refers to the Buddha leaving the palace and his family to seek answers to his questions.
<b>samatha (P, Skt)</b>	Form of meditation designed to achieve mental tranquillity and the cessation of unwholesome mental activities.
<b>Sangha (P, Skt)</b>	Strictly, the community of monks and nuns, but in the wide sense, the whole Buddhist community. The third of the three jewels and three refuges.
<b>sankhara-dukkha (P)</b>	The dukkha of conditioned states: everything is unsatisfactory because it is insubstantial.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Sanskrit Sutras and commentaries</b>	The vast body of literature that Mahayana Buddhists hold as authoritative. Some groups emphasise particular Sutras. Important Sutras include: The Lotus Sutra, the Prajnaparamita Sutras, including the Heart Sutra and the Diamond Sutra, and the Sukhavati Sutras.
<b>Self</b>	A person's individual character. The label given to the empirical 'self'. The Buddha rejected the idea of a permanent self.
<b>Soto Zen</b>	One of the two main schools of Zen Buddhism, founded by Dogen (1200-53), and emphasising the practice of zazen – sitting meditation.
<b>tanha (P)</b>	'Thirst'—attachment to material things, people, false views and the notion of self, which leads to dukkha. The relationship between tanha and dukkha is stated in the Second Noble Truth.
<b>Theravada (P)</b>	'The Way of the Elders'— the last surviving school which uses only the Pali Canon. It is found predominantly in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand.
<b>Three Jewels</b>	Triratna (Skt); tiratana (P). The three pillars of Buddhist religion—Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha (P) & Buddha, Dharma and Samgha (Skt). The three are as important as each other and are completely dependent on each other.
<b>Tipitaka (P) / Tripitaka (Skt)</b>	'Three baskets': The three sections of the Pali Canon – namely the Vinaya, Sutta and Abidhamma Pitakas.
<b>Uposatha days</b>	Days of renewed commitment to the dharma, often occurring on full-moon.
<b>Vassa (P)</b>	The three-month 'Rains Retreat', in which monks remain in intense meditation, and lay people may join the sangha for a period.
<b>vihara (P)</b>	Monastery (Theravada).
<b>Vinaya Pitaka (P)</b>	The first section of the Tipitaka (Pali Canon), containing the code of discipline for the Sangha.
<b>viparinama-dukkha (P)</b>	Dukkha produced by change (the pain of attempting to hold on to things that change).
<b>vipassana (P)</b>	'Insight meditation'—insight into the three marks of existence.
<b>zazen (J)</b>	'Sitting': a form of meditation practised in Zen Buddhism.
<b>Zen</b>	Literally meditation – the form of Japanese Buddhism based on Chinese Ch'an (meditation) Buddhism. There are two main schools of Zen: Soto and Rinzai.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HINDUISM: GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Agni</b>	Sacrificial fire, deified as the god of fire in later Vedic religion.
<b>ahimsa</b>	Non-violence to any living thing – a key part of Gandhi’s thought, originating in Jainism.
<b>Ambedkar</b>	Dr Ambedkar, himself a Dalit, wanted to eradicate the varna system and was in conflict with Gandhi’s views on the matter.
<b>Arjuna</b>	Pandava hero of the Mahabharata.
<b>ashrama/asrama</b>	‘Stage in life’. There are four stages: the student stage, the householder stage, the ‘forest-dweller’ (retirement) stage and the renunciate stage.
<b>atman</b>	The eternal soul. Some Hindu traditions describe atman as being the same as Brahman.
<b>avatar/avatara</b>	The appearance of Vishnu on earth. Some traditions state that there are ten avatars of Vishnu, the most important of which were Rama and Krishna.
<b>Bahujan Samaj Party</b>	A national, political party in India inspired by the philosophy of Ambedkar which has historically been supported loyally by the Dalits.
<b>Bhagavad Gita</b>	Part of the Mahabharata, though it also stands alone. An important scripture in which Krishna teaches Arjuna the importance of dharma, Karma yoga and the path of bhakti.
<b>Bhagavata Purana</b>	Hindu myth of creation.
<b>bhakti yoga</b>	Ecstatic loving-devotion to the divine.
<b>Brahman</b>	God. Sometimes described as the ‘universal soul’. Some forms of Hinduism see Brahman as the substance of everything. Others see the many gods as representing aspects of his personality.
<b>brahmanas</b>	Priests, the highest varna.
<b>Caturvarnashramadharm</b>	Duty according to one’s position in the varna and ashrama systems.
<b>Chela</b>	Disciple of a guru from the Sanskrit word meaning ‘slave’ or ‘servant’..
<b>Dalits</b>	‘Oppressed’. Name given to those without a varna, previously known as Untouchables or Harijans.
<b>darshan</b>	To look into the eyes of a murti and make contact with the divine.
<b>dharma</b>	‘Law’, ‘duty’, ‘obligation’. In Hinduism there is a universal law (sanatana dharma) and each individual must play their role in this by performing their own appropriate duties.
<b>Durga</b>	Goddess associated with Mahadevi (the Great mother). Durga was created from the anger of the gods to slay the buffalo demon. She is depicted with ten arms, each wielding a weapon.
<b>Durga Puja</b>	Festival, especially in Bengal, celebrating Durga.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Dvaita Vedanta</b>	Dvaita Vedanta – dual Vedanta, which teaches that atman and Brahman although they are of the same nature are distinct and separate.
<b>grihastha</b>	The householder ashrama.
<b>Hindutva</b>	'Hinduness' (a word coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his 1923 pamphlet entitled <i>Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?</i> ) is the term used to describe movements advocating Hindu nationalism.
<b>Holi</b>	Spring festival in which effigies of a demoness are burned on bonfires, and the sport of Krishna and the Gopis is emulated with the throwing of water and coloured powder.
<b>Holika</b>	A demoness in Hindu Vedic scriptures who was burnt to death.
<b>Jainism</b>	One of the oldest Indian religions. Prescribes a path of non-injury towards all living beings.
<b>jiva</b>	Individual personal spirit from the Sanskrit root 'to live' or 'to breathe'.
<b>karma</b>	The theory of cause and effect, action and reaction.
<b>karma yoga</b>	The practice of acting according to one's dharma, without self-interest, and surrendering the fruits of action to God.
<b>Krishna/Krsna</b>	One of the most popular Hindu gods, depicted in various ways as the teacher of Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita, as the lover of the Gopis and Radha in the Bhagavata Purana. He is also widely celebrated as the eighth avatar of Vishnu. Depicted as blue (the colour of the infinite sky), often with a flute and often with cows, he is the focus of much bhakti devotion.
<b>kshatriya/ksatriya</b>	The second of the varnas—the warriors and rulers.
<b>Madhva</b>	Primary thinker of Dvaita Vedanta.
<b>Mahabharata</b>	An epic poem of 100,000 verses, an account of the conflict between the Kaurava and the Pandava princes.
<b>mandir</b>	A Hindu temple.
<b>Manu</b>	Primary lawgiver of Hinduism, mythical composer of the Manusmirti – important text on how to live.
<b>moksha/moksa</b>	'Release', 'liberation'—the fourth 'artha' or goal of Hinduism, the release from samsara.
<b>monism</b>	The belief that only one substance exists (i.e. Brahman), such as in Advaita Vedanta philosophy.
<b>monotheism</b>	The belief that there is only one God.
<b>paramatman</b>	Supreme soul or spirit.
<b>prashad</b>	Consuming food offered to God, as a means of receiving blessing.
<b>puja</b>	Worship. In Hinduism, much of the worship takes place in the home.



TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Purusha sukta</b>	Sacrifice of primal man; text from the Rig Veda describing the sacrifice through which the gods created the universe.
<b>Rama</b>	The hero of the epic the Ramayana. Husband and rescuer of Sita, famed for his adherence to dharma. Seen as the seventh avatar of Vishnu.
<b>Ramayana</b>	Epic which tells the story of Rama and Sita, their banishment from Ayodhya, Sita's abduction by the ten-headed demon Ravana, Rama's rescue of her with the assistance of the monkey-god Hanuman, the return to Ayodhya and the trials of Sita. The main themes of the epic are adherence to dharma, and the triumph of good over evil.
<b>reincarnation</b>	The belief that the atman transmigrates. Human incarnation is rare.
<b>Rig Veda</b>	Oldest Veda, 'Veda of mantras'; contains mantras and hymns for the yajnas.
<b>Saguna Brahman</b>	With qualities in Dvaita Vedanta.
<b>samsara</b>	'Wandering': the cycle of birth, death and rebirth as a consequence of karma.
<b>sannyasin</b>	Renouncer; someone who has renounced society and their identity to pursue spiritual gain. Usually at the end of life, though not necessarily.
<b>Sanatana dharma</b>	Eternal law; understanding of Hinduism as a universal principle that all should obey.
<b>sat, cit, ananda</b>	'Being, consciousness, bliss'; the traditional attributes of Nirguna Brahman.
<b>satyagraha</b>	'Truth force' – one of the key ideas of Gandhi's teaching.
<b>Shaivism/Saivism</b>	One of the major theistic traditions of Hinduism, worshipping Shiva or one of his forms.
<b>Shiva/Siva</b>	The third god of the Trimurti, the destroyer (a positive force which makes way for re-creation). Shiva is the god of paradox, both ascetic and fertile.
<b>Shruti/sruti</b>	'Heard'; a term applied to the Vedas: those scriptures that are believed to be revealed, and thus have the highest status amongst the corpus of Hindu scriptures.
<b>shudra/sudra</b>	The fourth of the varnas. Often translated as 'serf'. Not twice-born (i.e. not wearers of the Sacred Thread).
<b>Sita</b>	Goddess of the furrow, wife of Rama. In the Ramayana her role is one of wifely virtue.
<b>smriti</b>	'Remembered'; a term applied to the Epics and the Puranas. These are scriptures which are important, but do not have the same status as the shruti scriptures, at least in orthodox circles.
<b>Trimurti</b>	Trinity of Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer.
<b>Vaishnavism</b>	One of the major monotheistic traditions, worshipping Vishnu or one of his avatars.
<b>Vaishya/vaisya</b>	The third of the four varnas; farmers and merchants.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>vanaprastha</b>	Retirement stage of life.
<b>varna</b>	'Colour': the four categories of Hindu society, a system dating from the Vedic period. Ritual purity is contingent upon varna. Consequently, each varna practises commensality and endogamy.
<b>varnadharma</b>	Duty according to one's varna.
<b>Varnashramadharm</b>	Duty according to varna and stage in life. This term is sometimes understood to be synonymous with Hinduism.
<b>Vedas</b>	The Vedas are the revealed scriptures of Hinduism.
<b>Vishnu/Visnu</b>	One of the deities of the Trimurti, the sustainer of the universe. Vishnu is commonly worshipped in the form of his avatars, of which there are traditionally ten.
<b>Yama</b>	The God of death.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SIKHISM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>5Ks</b>	The five items worn by Sikhs as outward signs of membership of the Khalsa—kesh (uncut hair), kangha (comb), kaccha (underpants or shorts), kirpan (sword or sheath knife), kara (bracelet).
<b>Adi Granth</b>	The Sikh scriptures – usually referred to as the Guru Granth Sahib after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship on the book. The book contains 1,430 pages, is written in Gurmukhi script in a metrical style intended for singing. Contributors include Guru Nanak and some of the other Sikh Gurus, as well as Muslim and Hindu authors.
<b>Amrit</b>	This literally means ‘nectar’. It is composed of water and sugar stirred with a double-edged sword. Initiation into Sikhism involves drinking amrit.
<b>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</b>	Main Sikh festival, which remembers the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.
<b>Bhagat Ramanand</b>	Gurmukh, poet whose hymn is present in the Adi Granth.
<b>Bhai Gurdas</b>	A very influential Sikh religious figure. Original scribe of the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>caste</b>	Traditional Indian social grouping. Although Indian Sikhs are aware of the caste into which they are born, a strict undertaking is made not to discriminate on the basis of caste. Sikhs reject the notion that humans are not equal.
<b>Dasam Granth</b>	A sacred book of writings attributed to Guru Gobind Singh.
<b>Dharam</b>	This term means 'righteousness'.
<b>Dharam Yudh</b>	A war in defence of righteousness.
<b>Diwali</b>	Festival at which the release of Guru Hargobind from Gwalior jail, and his good offices on behalf of the 52 Hindu Rajas, is remembered.
<b>gurmukhi</b>	‘From the mouth of the Guru’—the script attributed to Guru Angad, in which the Adi Granth is written, the creation of which is attributed to Guru Angad.
<b>guru</b>	Teacher, one who leads the disciple from darkness into light. God is defined as the Guru (Sat Guru—True Teacher, Waheguru—Wonderful teacher). The ten human teachers of Sikhism are given the title of Guru, as is the book, the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Guru Amar Das</b>	The third of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism. Conferred equal status on men and women. He also strengthened the langar community kitchen system.
<b>Guru Har Gobind</b>	The sixth guru who introduced the concept of miri and piri.
<b>Guru Granth Sahib</b>	The title given to the Adi Granth after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship upon the book.
<b>Guru Nanak</b>	First Guru and the founder of Sikhism.
<b>Guru Panth</b>	The Sikh community.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Ik Onkar</b>	'One'. The opening word of the Mul Mantra (and therefore of the Guru Granth Sahib). The central Sikh notion of the oneness of God.
<b>janam sakhis</b>	Collection of hagiographic stories about Guru Nanak.
<b>Kaccha</b>	One of the five K's: shorts, replacing the dhoti, enabling swift action in war, symbolising chastity and continence.
<b>Kangha</b>	One of the five Ks: comb, to keep kesh tidy.
<b>karah prashad/prasad</b>	A sweet made with sugar and ghee which is shared by the congregation in a Gurdwara to symbolise the sweetness of the grace of God.
<b>karma</b>	Sikh scriptures explain karma as whatever you plant you shall harvest.
<b>Kartapur</b>	City founded by Guru Nanak.
<b>Kaur</b>	Meaning 'princess' – mandatory last name for all female members of the Khalsa.
<b>kesh/kes</b>	One of the Five Ks: uncut hair; to cut hair is to tamper with God's creation.
<b>Khalsa</b>	The collective body of all initiated Sikhs, inaugurated by Guru Gobind Singh.
<b>Kirat Karo</b>	One of the three primary pillars of Sikhism. Earning money righteously and honestly.
<b>Lalla</b>	A mystic of the Kashmiri Shaivite sect who wrote many devotional and mystic poems expressing her longing for the divine.
<b>Langar</b>	Free community kitchen and also the description given to the act of providing a free vegetarian meal for all. Represents Sikh belief in the equality of all humanity. Sometimes called Guru ka langar meaning 'Guru's dining-hall'.
<b>Mughal Empire</b>	An empire that extended over large parts of the Indian subcontinent and Afghanistan, established and ruled by the Muslim Persianate.
<b>Naam Japo</b>	The term 'naam' refers to the various names given to God. 'Naam Japo' refers to the meditation, vocal singing of shabads or hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib or the chanting of the various names of God.
<b>panj piare</b>	Five Beloved Ones; the first five members of the Khalsa, dramatically initiated by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 after they swore that they would give their lives for him.
<b>panth</b>	'Way'—denotes the whole Sikh community.
<b>Pure Ones</b>	The body of initiated Sikhs who wear the Five Ks and vow at the amrit-samskar to defend the faith with their own lives if necessary.
<b>rebirth</b>	Similar to the Hindu concept of reincarnation – the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Liberation is release from this cycle and attainment of union with God.
<b>Saguna/sargun and nirguna/nirgun</b>	God with and without attributes.
<b>sangat</b>	A community, a Sikh congregation.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Sant</b>	A spiritually realised Sikh.
<b>Sant Sipahi</b>	This literally means 'saint soldier'. Guru Hargobind decreed that Sikhs should be devoted to the teaching of the Gurus and prepared to take up arms in self-defence and defence of the oppressed.
<b>Saram Khand</b>	Realm of spiritual endeavor.
<b>Sarbat da bhalla</b>	A Punjabi term meaning 'welfare of all'. It reflects an important part of Sikh philosophy.
<b>sewa</b>	'Service' – work without the expectation of reward, in recognition that a service done for a fellow human being is service done to God. A typical example of sewa would be working in the langar.
<b>Sheik Farid</b>	Author of 134 hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Singh</b>	Derived from the Sanskrit word for 'lion' and mandatory name for all male members of the Khalsa.
<b>Sufism</b>	The mystical dimension of Islam.
<b>turban</b>	Cloth distinctively tied and used to cover kesh (uncut hair).
<b>Vaisakhi</b>	Sikh festival coinciding with New Year.
<b>vak lao</b>	'Taking advice' – the Adi Granth is opened at random and a portion is read. Many Sikhs regard the verses as words from God which they will find helpful during the day.
<b>Vand Chhako</b>	One of the three main pillars of the teaching of Guru Nanak and means to share with others in the community.
<b>Varan Bhai Gurdas</b>	Name given to the forty chapters of writing by Bhai Gurdas which Guru Arjan referred to as the key to the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Waheguru/Vahiguru</b>	'True Name' – one of the names of God. Others include Sat Nam (True Name), Sat Guru (True Teacher), and Akal Purakh (Timeless One).

## AN INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION AND ETHICS: GLOSSARY - GENERAL TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>ethics</b>	This term comes from the classical Greek word <i>ethike</i> , meaning habit or behaviour and closely related to the word 'ethos'. For the Ancient Greeks it referred to the appropriate or customary way to behave in society. In modern times it refers to a branch of moral philosophy that aims to determine the meaning of right and wrong
<b>ethical</b>	Dealing with behaviour that is deemed as morally right or wrong.

### THEME 1: ETHICAL THOUGHT

<b>Adams, Robert</b>	American analytic philosopher born in 1937, he created a modified version of the 'Divine Command Theory'.
<b>arbitrariness problem</b>	A criticism of the Divine Command Theory that morality must be purely arbitrary if it is based upon what God commands.
<b>Aristotle</b>	Ancient Greek Philosopher (384 BC – 322 BC), who was taught by Plato at the Academy. Eventually split from the philosophy of Plato and created his own philosophical ideas that have heavily influenced western philosophy.
<b>Beatitudes</b>	Jesus gave humanity the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.
<b>Divine Command Theory</b>	Ethical theory that believes that morality is dependent upon God. Moral goodness occurs when moral agents are obedient to God's commands.
<b>Ethical Egoism</b>	Ethical theory that claims moral agents should do what is in their own self-interest. Therefore, an action is morally right if it is in one's own interest.
<b>Euthyphro dilemma</b>	A dilemma originally found in Plato's dialogue Euthyphro, asking the question 'Is that which is holy (good) loved by the gods because it is holy (good) or is it holy (good) because it is loved by the gods?' In other words, is goodness dependent upon God or independent of God?
<b>moral virtues</b>	A type of virtue distinguished by Aristotle. According to Aristotle moral virtues need to be developed by identifying and practising the 'mean' between deficiency and excess.
<b>pluralism objection</b>	Basically states that the Divine Command Theory is unrealistic given the contradictory nature of God's commands as claimed by different religions.
<b>Psychological Egoism</b>	Psychological school of thought that proposes that people naturally act out of self-interest.
<b>Stirner, Max</b>	Max Stirner (born Johann Schmidt in 1806) was a German philosopher. He was a forerunner of Egoism and sometimes associated with Nihilism and Anarchism. Stirner's main work is 'The Ego and Its Own'.
<b>Virtue</b>	A positive or good ethical quality or characteristic associated with an individual.

## THEME 2: AQUINAS' NATURAL LAW

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>abortion</b>	A medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy, normally before the foetus can survive independently.
<b>applied ethics</b>	The application of ethical theories to practical situations and moral dilemmas.
<b>Aquinas</b>	Thomas Aquinas, 13th century Dominican priest (1224-1274), commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Famous works include Summa Theologica and Summa Contra Gentiles. He developed Natural Law as established by earlier thinkers and was particularly influenced in his philosophy by Aristotle.
<b>cardinal virtues</b>	The virtues previously identified by Plato, developed by Aristotle and that were recognised as key virtues by Aquinas and which he found throughout the Bible: prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. Known as 'cardinal' virtues because the Latin term 'cardo' means 'hinge'. They are believed to form the basis of a moral life.
<b>charity</b>	Selfless, unconditional, and voluntary loving-kindness for others in response to God's love. One of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with faith and hope. Charity is a virtue included by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory. He believed that developing such virtues brought people closer to God's ideal of human nature.
<b>euthanasia</b>	Literally 'a good death'. It describes a medical procedure by which either a person terminates his or her own life because of extreme pain or suffering, or the life of another person is either allowed to come to an end or is brought to an end with the assistance of others, because of a critical medical condition.
<b>faith</b>	Steadfastness in belief in God; one of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with hope and charity; included by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory.
<b>fortitude</b>	Sometimes referred to as courage; to show endurance, and to possess the ability to confront fear and uncertainty or intimidation in order to achieve one's goal; one of the four cardinal virtues (see above).
<b>four levels of law</b>	Aquinas believed that there are four types of related law. These are: eternal law - God creates all that exists with a purpose and everything acts according to God's plan; divine law - is God's eternal law given through scripture; natural law - some aspects of God's eternal law that we can discover through our ability to reason, enabling us to distinguish between right and wrong. Aquinas believed that we cannot grasp all the details of eternal law until God reveals them to us upon our death; human law - society's legal systems that should be derived from natural and divine law.
<b>interior/exterior acts</b>	Terms used by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory to distinguish between the intention behind an act and the act itself. The interior act is the intention for performing act. The exterior act is the physical act itself. In order for an act to be truly good, both the interior and exterior acts must be good.
<b>justice</b>	The treatment of people with equality and fairness, both generally and before the law.
<b>hope</b>	An expectation of and desire of receiving; refraining from despair; believing in the possibility of eternal life in heaven with God. One of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with faith and charity.
<b>Natural Law</b>	Ethical theory based on the concept of a final cause or purpose, which determines everything's natural use or goal; a body of universal moral truths deduced from reason and experience; a view associated with Aristotle and developed by Aquinas.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>primary precepts</b>	The five main purposes of humankind's existence (given by God) according to Aquinas' Natural Law theory: preservation of human life; reproduction; education; orderly living in society; worship God. These are the absolute and deontological principles found within Aquinas' Natural Law theory. These principles should not be broken, regardless of the consequences.
<b>prudence</b>	The ability to judge rationally between actions and to recognise the most appropriate actions at a given time. One of the four cardinal virtues.
<b>real/apparent goods</b>	Aquinas viewed a real good as when we reason correctly and our actions helps us to become nearer to the ideal human nature that God had planned for us e.g. to live virtuously. An apparent good is when we reason wrongly and our actions take us further away from God's ideal, e.g. to sustain ourselves (a good) we have to eat or earn money, but if we allow the pursuit of 'eating' or 'wealth' to cloud our reasoning then this is wrong reasoning because it only brings greed and excess. As Aquinas states: "when the passions are very intense, man loses the use of reason altogether: for many have gone out of their minds through excess of love or anger." Summa Theologica (II-I.77.2).
<b>revealed virtues</b>	The three virtues of faith, hope and charity revealed or disclosed through Scripture (St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13). Christian theology teaches that these virtues differ from the cardinal virtues in that they cannot be obtained by human effort. A person can only receive them by being infused through divine grace into the person. Also often called theological virtues because they are directed by God.
<b>secondary precepts</b>	These are derived from the primary precepts. For example, the principle 'to live in an ordered society' leads to rules such as 'do not steal from others', or, 'do not use physical violence' or, 'do not damage another's property', etc.
<b>temperance</b>	Self-control or restraint, balance and moderation. The ability to control instincts and desires in order to be considered honourable. One of the four cardinal virtues.



### THEME 3: SITUATION ETHICS

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>agape</b>	The 'selfless love' principle which is the foundation of Situation Ethics developed by Joseph Fletcher.
<b>antinomianism</b>	The idea that people are under no obligation to obey the laws of ethics or morality as presented by religious authorities. This approach is completely anarchic. There are no rules, laws or principles which must be followed.
<b>conscience</b>	A person's moral sense of right and wrong; the part of a person that judges the morality of one's own actions. Fletcher redefined conscience as not something that directs us, but rather a description of how we respond to a moral issue through agape.
<b>Four Working Principles</b>	One of the two sets of guiding principles of Situation Ethics (the other being the six fundamental principles) devised by Fletcher in order to help assess what the most loving action in any given situation would be. They are personalism, positivism, pragmatism and relativism.
<b>Fletcher, Joseph</b>	Joseph Fletcher, American professor (1905-1991) who formalised the theory known as Situation Ethics in his book <i>Situation Ethics: The New Morality</i> (1966). Fletcher was a leading academic involved in topics ranging from abortion to cloning. He was ordained as an Episcopalian priest, but later identified himself as an atheist. Fletcher said that we should always use the principle of agape (selfless love) and apply it to the situation we are dealing with. He said we should always act lovingly and that no two situations are identical. His theory was both relativistic and consequentialist.
<b>homosexual relationship</b>	A person being in a romantic and intimate (sometimes sexual) relationship with someone of the same sex.
<b>legalism</b>	An ethical approach based on prescribed rules by which people can make every moral decision. Legalism is often linked to the idea that obedience to a code of religious law is necessary in order for a person to gain eternal life.
<b>personalism</b>	One of Fletcher's four working principles: people, not laws, must be put first in any given situation, and one must aim to achieve the most loving outcome. For example, a woman stealing food to feed her starving children would be acceptable according to this principle.
<b>polyamorous relationship</b>	This is the practice and acceptance of intimate relationships that are not exclusive with respect to other sexual relationships, with knowledge and consent of everyone involved.
<b>positivism</b>	One of Fletcher's four working principles: it means that one must accept that acting in the most loving way is the right thing to do without any rational proof that it is as an act of faith. Love provides justification, not proof, for an ethical decision. Agape is morally right without question.
<b>pragmatism</b>	One of Fletcher's four working principles, it means one must evaluate the situation and perform whatever action is practical/workable, motivated by love.
<b>relativism</b>	The view that there are no universal moral norms, but that an action should be judged right or wrong depending on the social, cultural and individual circumstances in each situation; one of Fletcher's four working principles.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Six Fundamental Principles</b>	<p>One of the two sets of guiding principles of Situation Ethics (the other being the four working principles) devised by Fletcher in order to help decide what the most loving action in any given situation would be. These six fundamental principles are: only one thing is intrinsically good, namely love, nothing else at all; only the principle of love provides a reasonable base by which to make judgements of right and wrong; love and justice are the same, for justice is love distributed, nothing else; love wills the good of others, regardless of feelings; a loving end justifies the means; love's decisions are made situationally, not prescriptively.</p>

## THEME 4: UTILITARIANISM

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Act Utilitarianism</b>	A form of Utilitarianism associated with Bentham that treats each moral situation as unique and each 'act' is deemed to be right or wrong based on the consequences it produces. Bentham presumed that pleasure should be sought and pain avoided.
<b>animal experimentation</b>	Animal research is the use of non-human animals in experiments that seek to control the variables that affect the biological system under study.
<b>Bentham, Jeremy</b>	Jeremy Bentham, philosopher, economist and social reformer (1748-1832), developed the theory known as Act Utilitarianism. He developed the principle of utility and the greatest happiness principle to help people achieve happiness. It states that an action is right if it promotes pleasure and avoids pain; an action is also right if it produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number. He also devised the hedonic calculus as a means of measuring pleasure.
<b>happiness</b>	The term used by Utilitarians to describe pleasure which is 'good'.
<b>harm principle</b>	Principle created by John Stuart Mill. He argued that the only reason power can be rightfully exercised over a member of a civilised community, against their will, is to prevent harm to others.
<b>hedonic calculus</b>	The criteria by which an Act Utilitarian attempts to measure pleasure and determine whether or not an action is right. Bentham's seven criteria are: certainty - how sure are you that the happiness will happen? duration - how long does the happiness last? extent - how many people does the happiness affect? intensity - how strong is the happiness? Purity – how free from pain is it? Remoteness - how close in time is the pleasure for those involved? Richness - how much more pleasure will this lead to?
<b>higher pleasures</b>	Term used by J.S. Mill to distinguish between different forms of happiness. Higher pleasures are superior pleasures and are pleasures of the mind: intellectual pursuits, spiritual reflection etc. They are superior to lower pleasures. He believed that the quality of happiness produced by an act was more important than the quantity.
<b>lower pleasures</b>	Term used by J.S. Mill to distinguish between different forms of happiness. Lower pleasures are inferior pleasures and are pleasures of the body, satisfying the bodily need for food, water, sleep, etc. He believed that the quality of happiness an act produced was more important than the quantity.
<b>Mill, J.S.</b>	John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), British philosopher, political economist, civil servant and Member of Parliament, was an influential liberal thinker of the 19th century. He was a Utilitarian, following an ethical theory developed by Jeremy Bentham (his mentor). His form of Utilitarianism was, however, very different from Bentham's in two main ways. Firstly, he believed that the quality of pleasure an act produced was more important than the quantity. Secondly, unlike Bentham who was an Act Utilitarian, he appears to have been a Rule Utilitarian.
<b>nuclear deterrence</b>	The belief that the possession of an arsenal of nuclear weapons defends a state from attack by another state, merely on the basis of a threat to deploy such weapons.
<b>principle of utility</b>	Bentham identified the principle of utility as that which avoids pain and promotes pleasure; he then developed this into the greatest happiness principle, which states that an action is right if it produces 'the greatest happiness for the greatest number.'
<b>Rule Utilitarianism</b>	Theory of Utilitarianism based on general principles or rules of behaviour; a view associated with J. S. Mill. Rule Utilitarians believe that by using the utilitarian principle – the greatest happiness for the greatest number – one can draw up general rules, based on past experiences, which would help to keep this principle. Rules like 'respect the property of others' or 'do not steal' would help people to keep the Utilitarian principle, so should be obeyed.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION GLOSSARY

### THEME 1: ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - INDUCTIVE

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>a posteriori</b>	On the basis of experience; used of an argument, such as the cosmological argument, which is based on experience or empirical evidence.
<b>aesthetic</b>	Relating to beauty
<b>anthropic argument</b>	A teleological argument that claims that nature has been planned in advance for the needs of human beings.
<b>Aquinas, Thomas St</b>	St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) 13th Century Dominican priest, commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. The works for which he is best known are <i>Summa Theologica</i> , in which he summarized five arguments (The Five Ways) for the existence of God, and <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> .
<b>argument</b>	A set of statements which is such that one of them (the conclusion) is supported or implied by the others (the premises).
<b>beings</b>	Not just human beings but anything that has a property.
<b>Classical theism</b>	The belief in a personal deity, creator of everything that exists, who is distinct from that creation and is sustainer and preserver of the universe.
<b>contingent beings</b>	Beings that depend upon something else for their existence. They have the properties that they need not be and that they could have been different.
<b>cosmological argument</b>	Argument for the existence of God based on the existence of the universe; commonly associated with Aquinas' concepts of motion, causality and contingency.
<b>Craig, William Lane</b>	William Lane Craig (1949-), one of the proponents of the modern day Kalam aspect of the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God.
<b>cumulative arguments</b>	A collection of arguments which, when formed together, present a stronger case than when the arguments stand alone.
<b>efficient cause</b>	That which causes change and motion to start and stop. In many cases, this is simply the thing that brings something about.
<b>empiricism</b>	The view that the foundation of knowledge is experience.
<b>Ex nihilo</b>	A Latin phrase meaning "out of nothing". Refers to the belief that God did not use any previously existing material when he created the world.
<b>immanent</b>	Existing or remaining; in theology it refers to God's involvement in creation.
<b>inductive argument</b>	Argument constructed on possibly true premises reaching a logically possible and persuasive conclusion.
<b>infinite regression</b>	A chain of causes or sequence of reasoning that can never come to an end.
<b>Intelligent design</b>	The view that an intelligent cause (which is not identified) accounts for certain features of the universe.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Kalam argument</b>	A form of the cosmological argument that rests on the idea that the universe had a beginning in time.
<b>Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm</b>	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), 17th/18th century German philosopher and mathematician, whose principle of sufficient reason supports the cosmological arguments for the existence of God.
<b>motion</b>	In Aquinas' First Way of the Cosmological argument, it refers to the process by which an object acquires a new form.
<b>natural selection</b>	A key mechanism of evolution. It is the principle by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved and the trait passed on to the next generation.
<b>necessary being (cosmological)</b>	A being which is not dependent on any other being or cause for its existence.
<b>order and regularity</b>	A key feature upon which the teleological argument for the existence of God rests – that both order and regularity are observable phenomena within the experiential universe, leading to inference that this is a deliberate feature of some intelligent being, responsible for the workings of the universe.
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<b>Paley, William</b>	William Paley (1743-1805), 18th century, English clergyman (Archdeacon of Carlisle) and philosopher, famed for his Watchmaker analogy, which forms part of the teleological argument for the existence of God.
<b>principle of sufficient reason</b>	There is some sort of explanation, known or unknown, for everything.
<b>probability</b>	The likelihood of something happening or being true.
<b>purpose</b>	The reason why something is in existence or being done.
<b>qua</b>	A Latin word meaning 'according to' or 'relating to'.
<b>teleological argument</b>	Argument for the existence of God based on observation of design and purpose in the world.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Tennant, Fredrick, Robert</b>	Fredrick Robert Tennant (1866-1957), 19th/20th Century English philosopher who developed forms of aesthetic arguments to infer the existence of an intelligent designer behind the Universe. Within his book, Philosophical Theology, he also advocated a form of the anthropic principle (although he did not use the term itself) to support his arguments for God's existence.
<b>theistic</b>	That which pertains to God.

THEME 2: ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - DEDUCTIVE	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>a priori</b>	Without or prior to experience; used of an argument, such as the ontological argument, which is based on acquired knowledge independent of or prior to experience.
<b>Anselm, St</b>	St Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109), formulated the ontological argument which showed how the existence of God on could be understood on the basis of reason alone.
<b>deductive argument</b>	An argument in which, if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true.
<b>Descartes, René</b>	René Descartes (1596-1650); promoted reason as most reliable basis for knowledge and analysis and used the method of doubt as a means to arrive at metaphysical truth.
<b>essence</b>	The essential nature of something.
<b>existential</b>	Relating to existence.
<b>faith</b>	A strong belief or trust in something of someone.
<b>Gaunilo</b>	Contemporary to St Anselm, criticized the ontological argument by the counter argument of the 'most perfect island'.
<b>Kant, Immanuel</b>	Immanuel Kant (1724-804); German philosopher and critic of the ontological argument who used the moral argument to contend for God's existence and life after death.
<b>Malcolm, Norman</b>	Norman Malcolm (1911-1990) argued for a form of the ontological argument based on defining God as an unlimited being and concluded that God exists necessarily.
<b>necessary being (ontological)</b>	A being which cannot not exist; its non-existence is a logical impossibility.
<b>omnipotence</b>	The characteristic of being all-powerful. Some philosophers exclude the power to do the logically impossible.
<b>omniscience</b>	The characteristic of being all-knowing of all things actual and possible.
<b>ontological argument</b>	Argument for the existence of God based on the concept of the nature of being.
<b>predicate</b>	Something that adds to our concept of the subject.
<b>proof</b>	To demonstrate the truth of something beyond all doubt.
<b>property</b>	Nature or character
<b>supremely perfect being</b>	This relates to Anselm's concept of the necessary existence of the most perfect conceivable being, i.e. God, in his ontological argument.

**THEME 3 : CHALLENGES TO RELIGIOUS BELIEF - THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING**

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Augustine St</b>	St. Augustine (c354-430) - Early Christian Bishop of Hippo (North Africa). An Early Church Father, converted to Christianity relatively late on in his life. Great intellectual force responsible for the formalisation of what is now accepted as Christian orthodoxy in terms of belief and ethics. Famous works include his <i>Confessions</i> and <i>The City of God</i> .
<b>Augustinian-type theodicy</b>	Often referred to as soul-deciding, the Augustinian-type theodicy has several aspects related to the Fall of humanity, the existence of free will and humanity's moral responsibility, the hope of the cross and God's forgiveness, that evil was not a substance created by God but is a privation of good, that natural evil is a result of the fall of humanity and angels, etc.
<b>Classical theism</b>	The belief in a personal deity, creator of everything that exists, who is distinct from that creation and is sustainer and preserver of the universe.
<b>epistemic distance</b>	A distance of knowledge. A phrase used by John Hick in his development of Irenaeus's theodicy to refer to the distance of knowledge between God and humankind, so allows human beings to choose freely.
<b>eschatological justification</b>	Meaning that all things will be made clear or 'justified' in the end times or 'eschaton'.
<b>evil</b>	That which produces suffering; the moral opposite of good.
<b>free will</b>	The ability to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.
<b>Irenaeon-type theodicy</b>	The presence of evil is deliberate and helps people to grow and develop. Often referred to as soul-making.
<b>Mackie, J. L.</b>	J. L. Mackie (1917-1981), 20th Century Australian philosopher who famously formulated the inconsistent triad and the Paradox of Omnipotence as demonstration of the incompatibility between the existence of evil and the existence of the God of Classical Theism.
<b>moral evil</b>	Events in which responsible actions by human beings cause suffering or harm e.g. war.
<b>natural evil</b>	Events caused by nature that cause suffering but over which human beings have little or no control e.g. earthquakes.
<b>Paul, Gregory S.</b>	Gregory S. Paul (1954-), 21 <sup>st</sup> century paleontologist and theological observer, who stated that the statistical weight of the amount of suffering experienced by innocents (especially the unborn and children) challenges the Christian understanding of a omnibenevolent creator God.
<b>privation</b>	Deprivation or absence of something that ought to be there; term used in Augustinian theodicy – evil is seen as an absence of good.
<b>Rowe, William</b>	William Rowe (1931-2015), 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Century American philosopher who stated that the evidence of the existence of intense and pointless suffering in the world proved that an omnibenevolent God could not exist.



TERM	DEFINITION
<b>second-order goods</b>	Moral goods that result from a response to evil e.g. compassion
<b>soul-deciding</b>	A concept within the traditions of the Augustinian theodicy that describes how suffering helps humans to choose whether to do good (and choose the path God intended) or to do evil (and to reject the plan God had for humanity).
<b>soul-making</b>	A concept within the traditions of the Irenaean theodicy developed by John Hick that describes how suffering helps humans develop morally (from God's 'image' into his 'likeness' – c.f. Genesis 1:26)
<b>theodicy</b>	A justification of the righteousness of God, given the existence of evil.

THEME 4: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE	
TERM	DEFINITION
<b>asceticism</b>	Deliberate self-denial of bodily pleasures for the attainment of spiritual fulfilment.
<b>charismatic</b>	A term used to describe Christians of various denominations who share a focus on ecstatic religious experiences through worship and prayer e.g. the gifts of the Holy Spirit as depicted in 1 Corinthians 13.
<b>conversion</b>	To change direction or to turn around.
<b>description-related</b>	Relating to descriptions of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
<b>foundational belief</b>	A belief that needs no further proof to support it.
<b>Franks Davis, Caroline</b>	A scholar who presented a scholarly critique of arguments that identified the three ways in which the authenticity of religious experiences were challenged.
<b>immanent</b>	Existing or remaining; in theology it refers to God's involvement in creation.
<b>ineffable</b>	Defies expression, unutterable, indescribable, indefinable.
<b>James, William</b>	William James (1842-1910) 19th/20th Century American psychologist renowned for investigations into religious experience and mysticism.
<b>monism</b>	The view that there is only one basic and fundamental reality.
<b>mystical</b>	Experiences or systematic meditation, which cause a heightened awareness of the divine or an ultimate reality.
<b>noetic</b>	Gaining special knowledge or insights that are unobtainable by the intellect alone; usually as a result of a mystical experience.
<b>numinous</b>	An experience of the holy; something wholly other than the natural world and beyond comprehension. A phrase used by Rudolph Otto in <i>The Idea of the Holy</i> .
<b>object-related</b>	Relating to the object (that that was experienced) of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
<b>Otto, Rudolf</b>	Rudolf Otto (1869-1937) in his book <i>The Idea of the Holy</i> , defined the concept of the holy as that which is numinous.
<b>passive</b>	Where the recipient(s) of the mystical experience do not bring it about themselves – the actual moment is governed by a being or force external to the will of the recipient.
<b>subject-related</b>	Relating to the subject (recipient) of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
<b>subjective</b>	Having its source within the mind.
<b>Sufism</b>	The mystical tradition within Islam.
<b>transcendent</b>	Having existence outside the material universe.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>transient</b>	The experience may be short-lived, but the effects tend to last much longer than the experience itself.
<b>veridical</b>	When the object of the experience actually exists as a reality and not just in the imagination.
<b>vision</b>	Something seen other than by ordinary sight.