

# GCSE Religious Studies – key words glossary

<b>Unit A Religion and life based on a study of Christianity and at least one other religion</b>	
<b>Section A1 Believing in God</b>	
numinous	the feeling of the presence of something greater than you eg in a church or looking up at the stars
conversion	when your life is changed by giving yourself to God
miracle	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
design	when things are connected and seem to have a purpose eg the eye is designed for seeing
causation	the idea that everything has been caused (started off) by something else
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
omnipotent	the belief that God is all-powerful
benevolent	the belief that God is good/kind
omniscient	the belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen
<b>Section A2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
resurrection	the belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised
immortality of the soul	the idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine

<b>Section A3 Marriage and Family Life</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
faithfulness	staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
re-marriage	marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
<b>Section A4 Social Harmony</b>	
equality	the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
discrimination	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
racism	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	the right to practise your religion and change your religion
religious pluralism	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist

<b>Unit B Religion and life based on a study of Christianity</b>	
<b>Section B1 Believing in God</b>	
numinous	the feeling of the presence of something greater than you eg in a church or looking up at the stars
conversion	when your life is changed by giving yourself to God
miracle	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
design	when things are connected and seem to have a purpose eg the eye for seeing
causation	the idea that everything has been caused (started off) by something else
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
omnipotent	the belief that God is all-powerful
benevolent	the belief that God is good/kind
omniscient	the belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that is going to happen

<b>Section B2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
resurrection	the belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised
immortality of the soul	the idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body
purgatory	a place where Catholics believe souls go after death to be purified
heaven	a place of paradise where God rules
hell	a place of horrors where Satan rules
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine
<b>Section B3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
faithfulness	staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
annulment	a declaration by the Church that a marriage never lawfully existed
re-marriage	marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex

<b>Section B4 Social Harmony</b>	
equality	the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
discrimination	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
racism	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious pluralism	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious freedom	the right to practise your religion and change your religion

**Unit C Religion and life based on a study of Catholic Christianity**

**C1 Believing in God**

numinous	the feeling of the presence of something greater than you eg in a church or looking up at the stars
conversion	when your life is changed by giving yourself to God
miracle	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
design	when things are connected and seem to have a purpose eg the eye is designed for seeing
causation	the idea that everything has been caused (started off) by something else
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
omnipotent	the belief that God is all-powerful
benevolent	the belief that God is good/kind
omniscient	the belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen

<b>Section C2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
resurrection	the belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised
immortality of the soul	the idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body
purgatory	a place where, Catholics believe, souls go after death to be purified
heaven	a place of paradise where God rules
hell	a place of horrors where Satan rules
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine
<b>Section C3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
faithfulness	staying with your marriage partner and having sex only with them
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
annulment	a declaration by the Church that a marriage never lawfully existed
re-marriage	marrying again after being divorced from a previous marriage
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex

<b>Section C4 Social Harmony</b>	
equality	the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
racism	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
discrimination	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious pluralism	the right to practise your religion and change your religion



<b>Unit D Religion and life based on a study of Islam</b>	
<b>Section D1 Believing in Allah</b>	
Ar-Rahman	the Merciful
Ar-Rahim	the Compassionate
Al-Aziz	the All-powerful
the Night of Power	the night when Muhammad was given his first revelation from Allah
salah	the five times a day ritual prayer
zakah	the tax Muslims pay for the poor
sawm	fasting, particularly in the month of Ramadan
hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
<b>Section D2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
akhirah	Muslim beliefs about life after death
al'Jannah	heaven or paradise (literally the garden)
jahannam	hell
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine

<b>Section D3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
mahr	a sum of money placed in trust for a bride by her husband at the wedding
contract	the legal document of marriage which specifies the mahr
khutbah	a sermon/talk by an imam in the mosque
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
kuhl	a divorce both parties agree to
talaq	a divorce which only one party wants
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex
<b>Section D4 Social Harmony</b>	
equality	the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
racism	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
discrimination	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah
ummah	the world-wide Muslim community
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious pluralism	the right to practise your religion and change your religion

<b>Unit E Religion and life based on a study of Judaism</b>	
<b>Section E1 Believing in God</b>	
omnipotent	the belief that God is all-powerful
omniscient	the belief that God knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen
benevolent	the belief that God is good/kind
numinous	the feeling of the presence of something greater than you eg in a synagogue or looking at the stars
miracles	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
design	when things are connected and seem to have a purpose eg the eye for seeing
causation	the idea that everything has been caused (started off) by something else
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
<b>Section E2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
resurrection	the belief that, after death, the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised
immortality of the soul	the idea that the soul lives on after the death of the body
house of life	the name given to Jewish cemeteries
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine

<b>Section E3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
kiddushin	sanctification or making holy which is how Jews describe marriage
ketubah	the marriage contract
huppah	the canopy used at Jewish weddings
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
Bet Din	a Jewish court of law
get	a document of divorce
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex
<b>Section E4 Social Harmony</b>	
Orthodox	the main group of Jews who believe that the mitzvot cannot be changed
Reform	a movement of Jews who believe Judaism needs to be adapted to modern society
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
discrimination	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
racism	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious pluralism	the right to practise your religion and change your religion

<b>Unit F Religion and life based on a study of Hinduism</b>	
<b>Section F1 Believing in God</b>	
numinous	the feeling of the presence of something greater than you eg in a mandir or looking at the stars
mystical	direct experience of God in such things as yogic trances
miracles	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
mandir	a Hindu temple
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
samsara	the process of reincarnation
karma	actions: Hindus believe that every action has an effect on your soul
dharma	religious duty/that which sustains one's existence
<b>Section F2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
nirvana	the ending of material existence (paradise)
moksha	release from the process of rebirth (salvation)
reincarnation	the belief that souls are reborn into another born after death
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
ahimsa	the principle of non-violence
atman	the self or the soul
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine

<b>Section F3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
havan	the fire ritual at weddings (literally sacrifice in which food is poured onto fire)
saptapadi	the seven steps taken at the wedding
grihastha	the householder stage of life
ashrama	a stage of life
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex
<b>Section F4 Social Harmony</b>	
equality	the state of everyone having equal rights regardless of gender/race/class
sexism	discriminating against people because of their gender (being male or female)
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
racism	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
discrimination	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious pluralism	the right to practise your religion and change your religion

<b>Unit G Religion and Life based on a study of Sikhism</b>	
<b>Section G1 Believing in God</b>	
the amrit ceremony	the Sikh initiation ceremony
miracles	something which seems to break a law of science and makes you think only God could have done it
prayer	an attempt to contact God, usually through words
agnosticism	not being sure whether God exists
atheism	believing that God does not exist
moral evil	actions done by humans which cause suffering
natural evil	things which cause suffering but have nothing to do with humans eg earthquakes
haumai	egoism, the major spiritual defect
manmukh	self-orientated/human centred
<b>Section G2 Matters of Life and Death</b>	
reincarnation	the belief that a soul moves into a different body after death
khands	stages on the path to liberation/salvation
mukti	the freeing of the soul from rebirth/salvation/liberation
paranormal	unexplained things which are thought to have spiritual causes eg ghosts, mediums
sanctity of life	the belief that life is holy and belongs to God
abortion	the removal of a foetus from the womb before it can survive
contraception	preventing conception from occurring
euthanasia	an easy and gentle death
assisted suicide	providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
voluntary euthanasia	the situation where someone dying in pain asks a doctor to end her/his life painlessly
non-voluntary euthanasia	ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so eg switching off a life-support machine

<b>Section G3 Marriage and the Family</b>	
cohabitation	living together without being married
marriage	the condition of a man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and, usually, having children
anand karaj	the Sikh wedding ceremony
lavan	marriage hymn
circling	the essential feature of a Sikh wedding when the couple circle the Guru Granth Sahib
pre-marital sex	sex before marriage
promiscuity	having sex with a number of partners without commitment
adultery	an act of sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
nuclear family	mother, father and children living as a unit
extended family	children, parents and grandparents/aunts/uncles living as a unit or in close proximity
re-constituted family	where two sets of children (step-brothers and sisters) become one family when their divorced parents marry each other
homosexuality	sexual attraction to the same sex
<b>Section G4 Social Harmony</b>	
Mati Sahib Kaur	the woman who provided the ingredients for the first amrit ceremony
khalsa	the community of the pure/the Sikh community
multi-ethnic society	many different races and cultures living together in one society
prejudice	believing some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them
discrimination	putting prejudice into practice and treating people less favourably because of their race/gender/colour/class
racism	the belief that some races are superior to others
racial harmony	different races/colours living together happily
multi-faith society	many different religions living together in one society
religious freedom	accepting all religions as having an equal right to coexist
religious pluralism	the right to practise your religion and change your religion



<b>Unit H Religion and society based on a study of Christianity and one other religion</b>	
<b>Section H1 Religion and Social Responsibility</b>	
Bible	the holy book of Christians with 66 books split into Old and New Testament
Church	the community of Christians (with a small c it means a Christian place of worship)
conscience	an inner feeling of the rightness or wrongness of an action
Situation Ethics	the idea that Christians should base moral decisions on what is the most loving thing to do in a situation
electoral system	the way in which voting is organised
first-past-the-post	the voting system where whoever gets the most votes in a constituency wins the seat
proportional representation	the voting system where seats are distributed according to the proportion of votes
national government	the government headed by the Prime Minister and Parliament which governs the whole country
local government	the local council which looks after local issues such as education and refuse disposal
Decalogue	the Ten Commandments
Golden Rule	the teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you
<b>Section H2 Religion and the Environment</b>	
pollution	the contamination/degradation of the environment
greenhouse effect	the trapping of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which is thought to increase the temperature of the earth
acid rain	such pollutants as coal smoke which make rain more acidic
natural resources	naturally occurring materials such as oil and fertile land which can be used by humans
creation	the act of creating the universe or the universe which has been created
stewardship	looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation
environment	the surroundings in which plants and animals live and which they depend on to live
conservation	protecting and preserving natural resources and the environment
animal rights	the belief that animals have rights not to be exploited by humans

<b>Section H3 Religion: Peace and Conflict</b>	
nuclear weapons	weapons based on atomic fission or fusion
other weapons of mass destruction	non-nuclear weapons which can destroy large areas/numbers of people eg chemical weapons
pacifism	refusing to fight in wars
just war	a war which is fought for the right reasons and in a right way
world peace	the basic aim of the United Nations to remove the causes of war
bullying	intimidating/frightening people weaker than yourself
forgiveness	the act of stopping blaming someone and/or pardoning them for what they have done wrong
reconciliation	bringing together people who were opposed to each other
<b>Section H4 Religion: Crime and Punishment</b>	
sin	an act against the will of God
crime	an act against the law
law	rules made by Parliament and enforceable by the courts
justice	due allocation of reward and punishment, the maintenance of what is right
deterrence	the idea that punishments should be of such a nature that they will put people off (deter) committing crimes
retribution	the idea that punishments should make criminals pay for what they have done wrong
reform	the idea that punishments should try to change criminals so that they will not commit crimes again
judgement	the act of judging people and their actions
punishment	a penalty given for any crime or offence
capital punishment	the death penalty for a crime or offence

<b>Unit I Christianity</b>	
<b>Section I1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
unity	the state of being one
trinity	the belief that God is three in one
monotheism	belief in one God
incarnation	the belief that God took human form in Jesus
virgin birth	the belief that Jesus was not conceived by sex
Christ	the Messiah/the Anointed One
crucifixion	a Roman death penalty suffered by Jesus when he was nailed to the cross
resurrection	the body being brought back to life after death/Jesus being raised from the dead
fire	a sign of the Holy Spirit purifying sins
wind	a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and power
dove	a sign of the peace the Holy Spirit brings
salvation	being saved from sin and becoming good
repentance	the act of being sorry for wrongdoing and deciding not to do it again
faith	belief in something without total proof
forgiveness	to stop blaming someone and/or pardon them for what they have done wrong
reconciliation	bringing together people who were opposed to each other

<b>Section I2 Community and Tradition</b>	
Old Testament	the first part of the Bible which Christians believe foretells Jesus
New Testament	the second part of the Bible which records the life of Jesus and the early Church
authority	the power/right to tell others what to believe and how to behave
holy	of or relating to God/sacred
catholic	universal or world wide
apostolic	the belief that the Church is founded on the apostles who were appointed by Jesus
Body of Christ	the belief that the Church is Christ's body in the world continuing his work
communion of saints	the belief that Christians will live on after death and that living Christians can share with those who have died
bishops	specially chosen priests who are responsible for all the churches in a diocese
priests	specially called/chosen people who are ordained to be ministers of the sacraments
deacons	either people training to be priests or specially chosen assistants to priests
laity	all the people of the Church who are not chosen to be bishops, priests or deacons
celibacy	living without engaging in any sexual activity
ordination	making someone a priest by the sacrament of holy orders

<b>Section I3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
real presence	the belief that Jesus is present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist
transubstantiation	the belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus
commemoration	the belief that the Eucharist remembers and keeps alive the Last Supper of Jesus, but nothing happens to the bread and wine
charismatic worship	worship involving spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues and healing
non-liturgical worship	worship which does not have any set ritual or form of words
infant baptism	the practice of baptising babies/children
confirmation	the sacrament when people confirm for themselves the promises made for them in infant baptism
believers' baptism	the practice of only baptising those old enough to express their beliefs
Advent	four weeks remembering how God prepared for the first coming of Jesus and thinking about the Second Coming
Christmas	festival celebrating the birth of Christ
Epiphany	festival celebrating the visit of the Wise Men and/or the baptism of Jesus
Lent	40 days set apart for prayer and fasting
Holy Week	the week beginning with Palm Sunday remembering the last week of Jesus' life
Easter	festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus
Pentecost	festival celebrating the giving of the Holy Spirit

<b>Section I4 Living the Christian Life</b>	
Ten Commandments	the ten rules for living given by God to Moses
The Sermon on the Mount	Jesus' description of Christian living
displaying religion	making a show of your religion eg by praying in the street
judgement	the act of judging people and their actions
Golden Rule	the teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you
service (to others)	showing Christian values by helping other people
compassion	sharing the distress and sufferings of others
concern	to show compassion by becoming involved in other people's distress
justice	due allocation of reward and punishment, the maintenance of what is right
oppressed	those who are made to suffer by others (especially by governments and the rich or powerful)

<b>Unit J Catholic Christianity</b>	
<b>Section J1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
unity	God's way of being one
trinity	the belief that God is three in one
monotheism	belief in one God
incarnation	the belief that God took human form in Jesus
virgin birth	the belief that Jesus was not conceived by sex
Christ	the Messiah/the Anointed One
crucifixion	a Roman death penalty suffered by Jesus when he was nailed to the cross
resurrection	the body being brought back to life after death/Jesus being raised from the dead
fire	when used of the Holy Spirit, it implies purifying power
wind	when used of the Holy Spirit, it implies power
dove	when used of the Holy Spirit, it implies peace
repentance	the act of being sorry for wrongdoing and deciding not to do it again
faith	belief in something without total proof
forgiveness	to stop blaming someone and/or pardon them for what they have done wrong
reconciliation	bringing together people who were opposed to each other

<b>Section J2 Community and Tradition</b>	
faith	belief in something without total proof
holy	of or relating to God/sacred
catholic	universal or world wide
apostolic	the belief that the Church can only be understood in the light of the apostles
Body of Christ	the belief that the Church is Christ's body in the world continuing his work
communion of saints	the belief that followers of Jesus, both living on earth and those who have died, are united with each other
bishops	specially chosen priests who are responsible for all the churches in a diocese
priests	specially called/chosen people who are ordained to be ministers of the sacraments
deacons	those called to assist the bishops, especially in caring for those in need
laity	those who share the mission of the Church without being ordained
celibacy	living without engaging in any sexual activity
ordination	making someone a priest, bishop or deacon by the sacrament of holy orders
Bible	the holy book of Christians with 66 books split into Old and New Testament
Magisterium	the Pope and the bishops interpreting the Bible and Tradition for Catholics today
apostolic succession	the belief that the bishops and the Pope continue the mission Jesus gave to Peter and the Apostles
papacy	the office of Pope
dogmas	the beliefs of the Catholic Church



<b>Section J3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
water	used in baptism as a sign of purification
chrism	the oil used in baptism, confirmation and ordination
vows	solemn promises made to God
renewal of baptismal vows	confirming and deepening the solemn promises made at baptism
penitential rite	the confession and absolution at the beginning of Mass
liturgy of the word	the Bible readings in the Mass
liturgy of the Eucharist	giving thanks and praise and the consecrating of the bread and wine in the Eucharistic prayer
rite of communion	receiving the body and blood of Jesus
sacrifice	a surrender of something valuable for the sake of others
real presence	the belief that Jesus is present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist
transubstantiation	the belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus
tabernacle	a safe place in which is kept the Blessed Sacrament
contrition	sorrow for the sin committed and deciding not to sin again
penance	an action showing contrition
absolution	through the action of the priest, God grants pardon and peace
viaticum	food for the journey
Christmas	festival celebrating the birth of Christ
Lent	40 days set aside for prayer and fasting
Holy Week	the week beginning with Palm Sunday remembering the last week of Jesus' life
Easter	festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus

<b>Section J4 Living the Christian Life</b>	
Ten Commandments	the ten rules for living given by God to Moses
Sermon on the Mount	Jesus' description of Christian living
displaying religion	making a show of your religion eg by praying in the street
judgement	the act of judging people and their actions
Golden Rule	the teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you
service (to others)	showing Christian values by helping other people
compassion	sharing the distress and sufferings of others
concern	to show compassion by becoming involved in other people's distress
justice	due allocation of reward and punishment, the maintenance of what is right
oppressed	those who are made to suffer by others (especially by governments and the rich or powerful)

<b>Unit K Islam</b>	
<b>Section K1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
Tawhid	the oneness of Allah
Shirk	the sin of regarding anything as an equal or partner of Allah
Khalifah	custodian or steward of the world for Allah
Adam	the first man and first prophet of Allah
al Qadar	Allah's control of future events
Risalah	Muslim beliefs about the prophets of Allah
Ibrahim	the prophet Abraham who is connected with much of the Hajj
Isa	the prophet Jesus
Tawrat	the holy book given by Allah to the prophet Musa
Zabur	the holy book given by Allah to the prophet Dawud
Injil	the holy book given by Allah to the prophet Isa
Akhirah	Muslim beliefs about life after death
<b>Section K2 Community and Tradition</b>	
Surah	a chapter of the Qur'an
Ayat	a verse of the Qur'an
bismillah	the words which begin every surah
prophethood	the position of being a messenger of Allah
Makkah	the city where the Ka'bah is and where Muhammad was born
hijrah	the emigration of the Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Madinah in 622
Madinah	the city of the Prophet
Sunni	Muslims who believe that the first four caliphs after the Prophet Muhammad were rightly guided
Shi'ah	Muslims who believe only the caliph Ali was rightly guided
hadith	the sayings and actions of the prophet Muhammad as recorded by his family and friends
imam	a person who leads salah prayers
10 Muharram	the day when Shi'ah Muslims remember the slaughter of Imam Hussein

<b>Section K3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
shahadah	the declaration of Muslim faith which is the first pillar
salah	the five daily prayers which are the second pillar
wudu	the washing which must take place before salah
qiblah	the direction of the Ka'bah in Makkah which must be faced in salah
niyyah	the prayer of intention which begins salah
rak'ah	a unit of prayer (each time of salah has a set number of units)
ju'mah	the Friday midday prayers for which Muslim males must attend mosque
zakah	a tax Muslims must pay for the poor which is the third pillar
ummah	the world wide Muslim community
sawm	fasting by going without food and drink during daylight hours and the fourth pillar
Ramadan	the ninth month when the Qur'an says all Muslims must fast
Id-ul-Fitr	the day after Ramadan ends, the festival of breaking the fast
hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah which is the fifth pillar
Tawaf	going round the Ka'bah seven times in worship of Allah
Sa'y	walking quickly between Safa and Marwah as part of Hajj
Mina	a place near Makkah where pilgrims make the sacrifice
Arafat	a plain near Makkah where pilgrims confess their sins
Id-ul-Adha	the festival of the sacrifice when all Muslims share in the event of Hajj
<b>Section K4 Living the Muslim Life</b>	
shari'ah	Islamic law based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah
halal	that which is permitted or lawful
haram	that which is forbidden or unlawful
jihad	struggle against evil in the way of Allah
hijab	used to describe the headscarf worn by Muslim women
riba	any form of lending or borrowing money at interest
aqiqah	the birth ceremony for Muslim children
Janazah	a special salah used at funerals

<b>Unit L Judaism</b>	
<b>Section L1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
hashem	literally the Name, it is part of the Jewish belief that God's name is holy and should not be pronounced unnecessarily
Shema	the verse from Deuteronomy which states God's oneness and is used by Jews in the mezuzah etc to remind themselves of God's unity
omnipotent	the belief that God is all-powerful
omniscient	the belief that God knows everything that has been and everything that will be
omnipresent	the belief that God is everywhere
covenant	literally an agreement between two parties, for Jews the covenant means the agreement between God and the Jewish people
Zionism	the movement to establish and support a Jewish state in Israel
Messiah	the Anointed One who will be sent by the Almighty to bring in a new age
Tenakh	the Jewish Bible
Torah	the five books of Moses which contain God's law and are the first part of the tenakh
Nevi'im	the prophet books which are the second part of the tenakh
Ketuvim	the writings which are the third part of the tenakh
<b>Section L2 Community and Tradition</b>	
Mishnah	the oral law as written by Rabbi Judah the Prince in about 200 CE
Talmud	collection of the mishnah and other writings on law and morals
Responsa	a collection of replies by rabbis to difficult questions
Codes	collections of the authoritative rulings on Jewish behaviour
Halakhah	the name for the Jewish law or for a particular law
Bet Din	a Jewish court of law
Shabbat	the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week
kiddush	the blessing recited over the wine which means sanctification or making holy
challot	the special loaves of bread used for Shabbat and other festivals
havdalah	the ceremony to mark the end of Shabbat and other festivals

<b>Section L3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
tallit	the wool or silk robe or shawl worn by Jewish males for morning prayer
tefillin	the two leather boxes, containing Torah passages, worn by Jewish males for morning prayers
yamulkah	the skull cap worn by Jewish males in the presence of the Almighty
Pesach	the festival of Passover
Shavuot	the festival of Weeks or Pentecost
Sukkot	the festival of Booths or Tabernacles
Simchat Torah	the festival of rejoicing the Law
Hanukkah	the festival of dedication
Purim	the festival commemorating Esther saving the Jews from extermination
Rosh Hashanah	the Jewish New Year
Yamin Neraim	the Days of Awe between New Year and Atonement
Yom Kippur	the Day of Atonement
<b>Section L4 Living the Jewish Life</b>	
mitzvot	the commandments a Jew must follow
mezuzah	small parchment scroll containing shema and covenant put on the right hand door post
kosher	food which a Jew is allowed to eat
mikveh	ritual bath for spiritual cleansing
brit milah	covenant of cutting/circumcision
mohel	one who conducts circumcision
sandek	the man who holds the baby boy during circumcision
bar mitzvah	initiation ceremony for boys
bat mitzvah	initiation ceremony for girls (mainly Reform or Liberal)
bat chayil (Siddur)	initiation ceremony for girls (mainly Orthodox)
chevra kaddisha	the people who prepare a body for burial
shiva	seven days when bereaved people sit at home
kaddish	prayer of sanctification used in mourning ceremonies

<b>Unit M Hinduism</b>	
<b>Section M1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
Brahman	the ultimate reality from which everything comes
Om	the sacred symbol representing Brahman
trimurti	the three deities – Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva
Brahma	the deity in charge of creative power
Vishnu	the preserver deity
Shiva	the deity in charge of destruction and re-creation
avatar	the descent of a deity to earth
Durga	the goddess who can control ignorance and selfishness
samsara	reincarnation of the passage of the soul through many lives
karma	actions or the law of cause and effect
moksha	liberation from samsara or rebirth
sanatan dharma	the eternal religion (Hinduism)
gunas	the qualities of goodness, passion and ignorance
rajas	the guna of passion
sattva	the guna of goodness
tamas	the guna of ignorance
<b>Section M2 Community and Tradition</b>	
varnas	the four divisions of Hindu society
brahmins	the highest of the varnas from which priests must come
kshatriyas	the second of the varnas who are rulers/warriors
vaishyas	the third of the varnas who are merchants and farmers
shudras	the fourth varna who are workers
jati	the subgroup of the varna which defines occupations
dalit	oppressed caste
smriti	the Hindu scriptures other than the Vedas and Upanishads
shruti	the Vedas and Upanishads
bhakti	devotion or love for the deity
swami	a religious leader honoured because s/he can control their senses
guru	a spiritual teacher

<b>Section M3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
puja	the ceremonies connected with worship
arti	the fire/light ceremony when incense or lamps are offered to the deity
murti	the image of a deity
darshan	paying respect to a holy image to receive a blessing
prashad	sacred food
Holi	the festival of colours celebrated in spring
Navaratri	the nine nights festival before Dussehra
Durga puja	celebration during Navaratri when the power of Durga over evil is celebrated
Diwali	the festival of light
yatra	Hindu pilgrimage
Ayodhya	pilgrimage city where Rama was born
Varanasi	pilgrimage city on the Ganges associated with death rituals
Vrindavan	pilgrimage city connected with Krishna
<b>Section M4 Living the Hindu Life</b>	
ashramas	stages of life
brahmacharya	the first stage of life (student)
grihastha	the second stage of life (householder)
vanaprastha	the third stage of life (retiring to the woods)
sannyasa	the fourth stage of life (wandering holy man)
Samskars	rituals marking each new stage of life
ahimsa	respect for life, not killing
karma yoga	the path of good deeds performed with an attitude of selflessness
jnana yoga	the path of knowledge
bhakti yoga	the path of loving devotion
raja yoga	the highest form of knowledge involving mind, body, senses and soul



<b>Unit N Sikhism</b>	
<b>Section N1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
Mool Mantar	the statement of basic Sikh beliefs at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib
Akal Purakh	the Eternal One (God)
Satnam	the True Name (God)
Waheguru	Wonderful Lord (God)
samsara	the rebirth of a soul into another body until liberation is attained
karma	deeds the consequences of which affect rebirth
mukti	spiritual liberation
manmukh	self-orientated or human centred
gurmukh	God-oriented
haumai	egoism, the major spiritual defect
varna	the class divisions of Hindu society
<b>Section N2 Community and Tradition</b>	
Janamsakhi	life stories of a Guru
Japji	Guru Nanak's most famous hymn
Guru Angad	Guru Nanak's successor
Kartarpur	the place where Guru Nanak began the Sikh community
Khalsa	the Sikh community
Singh	lion, the name taken by initiated Sikh men
Kaur	princess, the name taken by initiated Sikh women
panj piare	the five beloved ones, those first initiated into the khalsa, those who perform the amrit ceremony today
Guru Granth Sahib	the Sikh holy book
Adi Granth	the first collection of scripture by Guru Arjan, or another name for the Guru Granth Sahib

<b>Section N3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
diwan	the Sikh act of public worship
kirtan	devotional singing
shabads	Sikh hymns
ardas	the Sikh formal prayer offered at most acts of worship
karah parshad	sanctified food which is shared at the gurdwara
langar	the meal served in the gurdwara after diwan, or the place where it is served
amrit	sanctified mixture of sugar and water used at the khalsa initiation ceremony
melas	Sikh festivals
gurpurbs	anniversaries of a Guru's birth or death
Vaisakhi	Sikh New Year festival celebrating the founding of the khalsa
Diwali	a festival of lights celebrating the release of Guru Hargobind from prison
akhand path	continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib from beginning to end
<b>Section N4 Living the Sikh Life</b>	
nit nem	the recitation of the set daily prayers
sohila	the night prayers
raheras	evening prayers
panj kakke	the 5 k's worn by initiated Sikhs
kesh	leaving hair uncut
kangha	the ritual comb worn in the hair
kara	the steel band worn on the right wrist
kach	the specially designed shorts
kirpan	the ritual sword
Nishan Sahib	the Sikh flag flown at gurdwaras
pagri	the turban
sewa	voluntary service

<b>Unit O Buddhism</b>	
<b>Section O1 Beliefs and Values</b>	
anicca	impermanence, the instability of all things
anatta	the denial of a permanent personal self or soul
dukkha	suffering, which is the nature of human existence in the first noble truth
tanha	craving or desire
khandas	the five qualities of a person: form, feeling, perception, mental formation, consciousness
wheel of existence	the Buddhist belief that life, death and rebirth is like a wheel which never ends
samsara	the continual round of birth, death and rebirth
kamma	actions which affect this and future lives
prajna	insight or wisdom
sila	morality
samadhi	a state of deep meditation
nibbana	the state of perfect peace which follows the blowing out of desire
<b>Section O2 Community and Tradition</b>	
four sights	the Buddha seeing: an old man, a sick man, a corpse and a holy man
ascetic practices	punishing the body (eg by going without food) to improve the soul
bodhi tree	the tree under which Siddhartha was sitting when he received enlightenment
dhamma	the teachings of the Buddha
parinibbana	final and complete nibbana at the passing away of a Buddha
sangha	the Buddhist community
laypeople	Buddhists who are not monks or nuns
bhikku	a Buddhist monk
bhikkuni	a Buddhist nun
vihara	a Buddhist monastery or dwelling place
Arahant	an enlightened disciple who is free from desire
Bodhisattva	a being destined to be a Buddha who helps all living things
tantra	a ritual text
Tipitaka	the three collections of sacred Buddhist books
Dhammapada	the most important of the Buddhist scriptures

<b>Section O3 Worship and Celebration</b>	
puja	Buddhist worship
rupa	a Buddha image
mudra	ritual gestures as seen in Buddha images
mantras	phrases chanted in worship or meditation
thankas	embroidered images of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
dhyana	Buddhist meditation
samatha	calm, abiding meditation
vipassana	insight meditation
Wesak	Buddha day when the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha are celebrated
Vassa	the time during the monsoon period when many Buddhists retreat to monasteries to spend a few weeks as a monk or nun
<b>Section O4 Living the Buddhist Life</b>	
pansil	the five precepts or guidelines for Buddhist living
negative	each precept has a negative side eg I will not kill
positive	each precept has a positive side eg I will show loving kindness to all living creatures
ordination	becoming a monk or nun
vinaya	the rules of the monastic way of life
metta	unselfish loving kindness
karuna	compassion
kshanti	patience or forbearance
vipassana	insight meditation

<b>Unit P Mark's Gospel</b>	
<b>Section P1 Discipleship</b>	
disciples	followers of Jesus
Levi	a tax collector who was called to be a disciple
Twelve	the twelve selected from the disciples to be Jesus' closest disciples
true family	those who follow the teachings of Jesus are his true family
suffering	the pain, misery or loss experienced by someone who suffers
discipleship	what it means to be a follower of Jesus
true greatness	the teaching of Jesus that service of others is true greatness
service	an act of help or assistance
failure	lack of success in performance or an insufficiency
Peter's denial	the way Peter said he was not a follower of Jesus after the arrest of Jesus
<b>Section P2 Conflict and Argument</b>	
forgiveness of sins	the power of God to cancel out the sins of a person
sinners	those who did not follow all the Jewish laws
fasting	going without food on certain days as a sign of devotion to God
Sabbath	the day of rest on the seventh day of the week
ritual cleanness	the Jewish laws on food and washing which prevented anything unclean entering the body
Corban	a gift to the Temple which meant the money could not be used for anything else
Passion	the death of Jesus
Palm Sunday	the Sunday before Good Friday when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey
Temple	the building in Jerusalem where sacrifices were made
authority	the power/right to tell others what to believe and how to behave
greatest commandment	love God and love your neighbour

<b>Section P3 Death and Resurrection</b>	
Last Supper	the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples which founded the Eucharist
Garden of Gethsemane	the place where Jesus was arrested
betrayal	handing over to an enemy
High Priest	the chief Jewish leader at the time of Jesus
Pontius Pilate	the Roman procurator (governor) of Judea at the time of Jesus
crown of thorns	the crown placed on Jesus' head by the Roman soldiers symbolising his suffering and his kingship
crucifixion	the Roman death penalty suffered by Jesus when he was nailed to the cross
burial	the placing of Jesus in a stone tomb by Joseph of Arimathea
resurrection	the body being brought back to life after death/Jesus rising from the dead
shorter ending	chapter 16 verse 9
longer ending	chapter 16 verses 9-20
<b>Section P4 Who is Jesus?</b>	
baptism	confessing sins and being immersed in water as a sign of purification
confession	an acknowledgement or declaration of something
Caesarea Philippi	the place to the north of the Sea of Galilee where Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah
transfiguration	when Jesus' clothes and face became shining after his talk with God on the mountain
Legion	the name given to the man who was possessed by many demons
Jairus' daughter	the 12 year old girl brought back to life by Jesus
blind Bartimaeus	the blind man who called Jesus the Messiah and was cured
nature miracles	miracles where Jesus showed power over inanimate things like the sea, the wind, bread and fish
healing miracles	miracles where Jesus showed his power by healing people from illnesses
Son of God	a title given to Jesus showing he had a special relationship with God
Son of Man	a title used by Jesus of himself, probably meaning he would suffer before bringing in God's kingdom
Messiah (Christ)	the Anointed One who would bring in God's kingdom