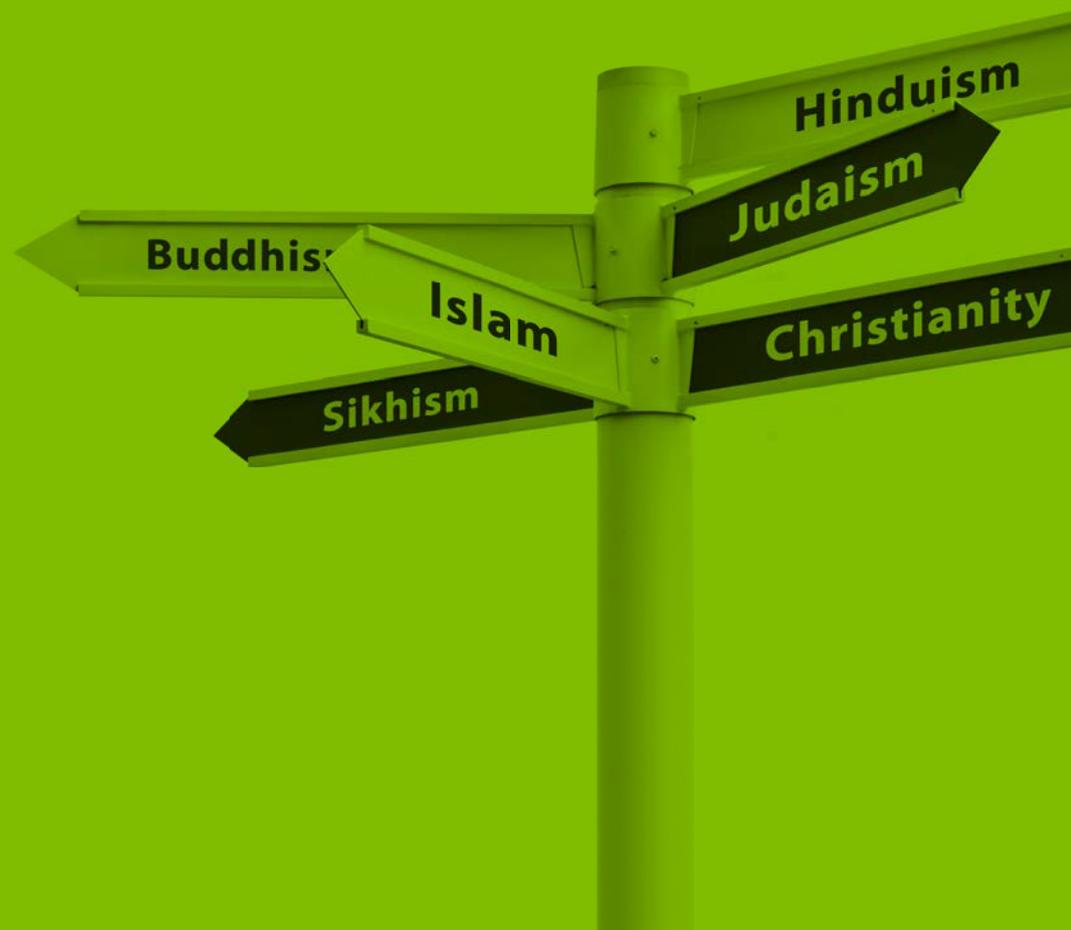


GCSE



WJEC GCSE in
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



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UNIT 1

PART A: RELIGION

Christianity – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Omnipotence	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
Omnibenevolence	The state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God.
Trinity	The three persons of God; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Incarnation	“made flesh” - the Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine. God becoming human in the form of Jesus.
Atonement	The belief that Jesus’ death and resurrection healed the rift between humans and God, thereby opening the way for God and people to be 'at one' again.
Divine Command Theory	The belief that something is right because God commands it.
Agape	Selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. Christianity holds agape to be the highest types of love, epitomised by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for the salvation of humanity and in teachings such as 'Love your neighbour'.
Inter-faith dialogue	Different faith communities and groups coming together to better understand each other and to serve the wider community with a mutual respect that allows them to live peacefully alongside each other in spite of differences in beliefs and ways of life.
Omniscience	The all-knowing nature of God.
Holy Spirit	One of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. Jesus promised the Apostles that he would send the Holy Spirit after his Crucifixion and Resurrection. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is present, as the power of God at work in the world.
Resurrection	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day from when he was crucified, thereby conquering death. It is commemorated annually on Easter Sunday.
Messiah	The word means 'the Anointed One'. The Messiah is the one believed to be sent by God to be humanity’s saviour. Christians believe this person to be Jesus.

Catholic – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Omnipotence	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
Omnibenevolence	The state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God
Trinity	The three persons of God; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Incarnation	“Made flesh” The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine. God becoming human in the form of Jesus.
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Divine Command Theory	The belief that something is right because God commands it.
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Inter-faith dialogue	Different faith communities and groups coming together to better understand each other and to serve the wider community with a mutual respect that allows them to live peacefully alongside each other in spite of differences in beliefs and ways of life.
Resurrection	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day from when he was crucified, thereby conquering death. It is commemorated annually on Easter Sunday.
Sacraments	Outward signs of inward grace, ordained by Jesus Christ, by which grace is given to the soul. Sacraments are rituals which bring into existence the thing that they signify. The Catholic Church recognises seven sacraments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism • Reconciliation (also called Penance or Confession) • Eucharist (also called Holy Communion) • Confirmation • Marriage (also called Matrimony) • Holy Orders (also called Ordination) • Sacrament of the Sick

Mass	The celebration of the Eucharist. The most central act of worship for a Catholic, which re-enacts the Last Supper. At Mass, Catholics participate in the saving events of Jesus' death and resurrection where they believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus.
Imago Dei	'in the image of God'. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.

Judaism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Omnipotence	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
Omnibenevolence	The state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God
Shema	A prayer declaring Jewish faith that is said by many Jews twice a day. The Shema states that there is only one God. It is placed in the Mezuzah case and tefillin
Synagogue	House of assembly; building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly
Orthodox	A major branch within Judaism which adheres faithfully to the principles and practices of traditional Judaism. Orthodox Jews believe that the Law of the Torah is eternal and unchanging, and they practise observance of the Sabbath, religious festivals, holy days, and the dietary laws.
Reform	A major branch of Judaism which seeks to embrace a diversity of interpretations of Jewish Law and customs, whilst preserving the beliefs, values and traditions central to the faith. Reform Jews believe that Jewish law is inspired by God and people can choose which laws to follow.
Shabbat	Day of spiritual renewal and rest. Beginning at sunset on Friday and closing at nightfall on Saturday.
Kashrut	The body of Jewish law dealing with what foods can and cannot be eaten and how those foods must be prepared. The word 'Kashrut' comes from the Hebrew meaning fit, proper or correct. The word "kosher," which describes food that meets the standards of kashrut.
Aron HaKodesh	The holy Ark containing the Torah scrolls. It is on the wall facing Jerusalem and is the focal point of the synagogue.
Rabbi	A religious teacher and leader with authority to make decisions on issues of Jewish law. A rabbi is the chief religious official of a synagogue, who often (but not always) leads worship and conducts rites and rituals.
Kippah	A cap worn by Jewish boys and men (and sometimes women) during services. Some Jews wear a kippah at all times. It is a reminder of God's presence. A Kippah is often also known as a yarmulke.
Ner Tamid	'eternal light'; a constantly lit lamp near the ark in the synagogue that symbolises God's presence.

Islam – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Tawhid	'oneness' in reference to God and is the basic Muslim belief in the oneness of Allah
Shahadah	Declaration of faith, which consists of the statement, 'There is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah'.
Shirk	Association; regarding anything as being equal or partner to Allah.
Qur'an	That which is read or recited. The divine book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Allah's final revelation to humankind.
Salat	Prescribed communication with and worship of Allah, performed under specific conditions, in the manner taught by the Prophet Muhammad, and recited in Arabic. Muslims believe that the five times of Salat are fixed by Allah.
Sawm	Fasting from just before dawn until sunset. Abstinence is required from all food and drink as well as smoking and sexual relations.
Zakat	Purification of wealth by payment of annual almsgiving. An obligatory act of worship.
Adhan	Call to prayer, usually performed by a muezzin
Halal	Any action or thing which is permitted or lawful, often used in reference to foods that are permitted
Du'ah	Varying forms of personal prayer
Saddaqah	Voluntary payment or good action for charitable purposes
Hadith	Saying; report; account. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, as recounted by his household, descendants and companions. These are a major source of Islamic law.

Hinduism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Brahman	The supreme power in the Universe; ultimate reality; God.
Atman	The individual self or soul, which is believed to be non-physical and return to Brahman once moksha is achieved.
Trimurti	The three major aspects of the Brahman, the supreme power; Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer.
Avatar	The incarnations (divine becoming human) of a deity, sometimes in human form; most commonly used is Vishnu, the Preserver God, who was incarnated through Krishna.
Puja	Prayer/worship of the gods often in the form of murtis.
Arti	A form of Hindu worship/prayer in which burning lamps are waved before the murtis (statues) of the gods to invoke their presence.
Upanaya	The sacred thread ceremony.
Mandir	A Hindu place of worship or shrine.
Bhakti	Devotion. In bhakti traditions it is believed that love of God is the path to moksha (spiritual liberation).
Varanasi	Ancient city in northern India, on the banks of the River Ganges. One of the seven sacred sites of Hinduism, important as a centre of spirituality, where many Hindus aspire to end their lives.
Nam Samskar	The fifth samskar when a child receives its name on about the eleventh day after birth. Also called the Namakarana.
Murti	The image and representation of a deity in a temple, shrine or in the home.

Sikhism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Guru	A religious teacher and spiritual guide.
Sewa	Service to fellow human beings; acts of kindness or charity.
Gurdwara	The name given to a Sikh place of worship; it means ‘gateway to the Guru’.
Guru Granth Sahib	The sacred scripture of Sikhism that is regarded as the revealed Word of God.
Langar	The free community kitchen found in all gurdwaras. This is a cornerstone of the Sikh religion, showing equality, and was founded by Guru Nanak.
The Five K’s	<p>The five symbols of Sikhism worn by all Khalsa Sikhs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kachera – under shorts to remind them of the clothes worn by soldiers who fought for the faith. They also symbolise continence and chastity. • Kanga - the comb that reminds them that God is there to remove the tangles from their life and can always be turned to. • Kara - is the bangle that reminds them that God is eternal • Kesh – the uncut hair has many symbolic meanings including the rejection of pride and the appreciation of God’s gift of creation • Kirpan - the dagger worn to symbolise defence against attack and the protection of those who are oppressed
Amrit Sanskar	The name given to the ceremony that initiates a person into the khalsa.
Gurmurkh	Someone who has become God-centred rather than self-centred (manmukh).
Mukti	Spiritual liberation from the cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth.
Singh/Kaur	<p>Singh - means ‘lion’ and is the middle or last name of a Sikh male; it is the mandatory last name for a Khalsa Sikh male.</p> <p>Kaur - means ‘princess’ and is the middle or last name of a Sikh female; it is the mandatory last name for a Khalsa Sikh female.</p> <p>Guru Gobind Singh declared that all Sikhs should share these common names to promote a sense of community and equality.</p>
Karma	The belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atma will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. One could gain positive and/or negative karma.

Buddhism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Buddha	One who is fully enlightened; Siddhartha Gautama.
Dukkha	Suffering/ unsatisfactoriness.
Tanha	Desire, wanting, craving of possessions, people, permanence
Eightfold Path	The ‘medicine’ of the 4 Noble Truths. Eight steps towards overcoming suffering and desires and achieving Nibbana (Nirvana). Commonly divided into three sections: Wisdom, Morality and Meditation
Samatha	Calm, or breathing meditation.
Dhamma/ Dharma	Teachings of the Buddha.
Sangha	The community of Buddhists. This can be lay or monastic.
Wesak	A festival to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.
Four Noble Truths	The Buddha’s first teaching: Suffering, the cause of suffering, the end of suffering and the means by which to end suffering.
Vipassana	‘insight’ meditation enabling the individual to see the true nature of things.
Mettabhavana	The development of the four types of loving kindness, usually through meditation
Paranirvana/Parinibbana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete, final Nirvana, after death. The Buddha, after achieving nirvana in this life decided to remain in the world to share his teachings. Upon his bodily death he would be in the state of paranirvana/parinibbana. 2. Mahayana Buddhist festival commemorating the death of the Buddha, sometimes called Nirvana Day.

PART B – Philosophical Themes

Theme 1 – Issues of Life and Death

KEY CONCEPTS

*In this theme, candidates are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority **as well as the beliefs of Humanists and Atheists.***

Afterlife	Life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death
Environmental responsibility	The duty upon human beings to respect, care for and preserve the natural environment. Crucial to environmental responsibility is the idea of sustainability.
Euthanasia	From Greek, <i>eu</i> 'good' + <i>thanatos</i> 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. The act of killing a person, either directly or indirectly, because a decision has been reached that death would be the best option.
Evolution	The process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier, less complex forms during the history of the earth.
Abortion	When a pregnancy is ended by the deliberate removal of the foetus from the womb so that it does not result in the birth of a child.
Quality of life	The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable.
Sanctity of life	The belief that life is precious, or sacred because humans are made 'in God's image'. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status.
Soul	The spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as non-physical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife.

Theme 2 – Issues of Good and Evil

KEY CONCEPTS

Good/Evil	good – that which is considered morally right, or beneficial and to our advantage evil – that which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong
Forgiveness	To grant pardon for a wrongdoing; to give up resentment and the desire to seek revenge against a wrongdoer.
Free will	The ability to make choices (particularly moral choices) voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is pre-determined.
Justice	Fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and equality of opportunity and receives what they are due.
Morality	Principles and standards determining which actions are right or wrong.
Pacifism	The belief that war and violence are unjustifiable.
Conscience	A person's moral sense of right and wrong. Religious people may believe that the conscience is their inner guidance from God.
Suffering	Pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be physical, emotional/psychological or spiritual.

UNIT 2

PART A- RELIGION

Christianity – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Bible	Christian sacred text believed by Christians to be revealed and/or inspired by God, made up of the Old and New Testaments.
Revelation	God making himself known to humankind; for instance, through the Bible
Judgement	The belief that God will judge whether or not humans are worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Baptism	This sacrament is a rite of initiation, through which people become members of the Church. The word 'baptise' means to immerse in water. Water is used as a symbol of the washing away of sin.
Reason	The process of logical thought; the ability to think in a logical way. To form judgements and opinions through rational and evidence-based consideration.
Confirmation	A rite through which a person who has been baptised (particularly one baptised as an infant) affirms their Christian belief and is recognised as full member of the Church.
Eucharist	Meaning "thanksgiving" and also called 'Holy Communion'. The service which celebrates the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Bread and wine represent (or, as some Christians such as Catholics believe, actually become) the body and blood of Jesus. The Eucharist is a re-enactment of the Last Supper.
Pilgrimage	A journey made to a sacred place as an act of worship or devotion, e.g. Christians may visit Jerusalem to walk in Jesus' footsteps.
Free will	The ability to make choices (particularly moral choices) voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is pre-determined.

Heaven/Hell	<p>Heaven – a 'place' or 'state' in the afterlife where those who have accepted God's grace and forgiveness in this life will enjoy an eternal existence in God's presence in the next life.</p> <p>Hell – a 'place' or 'state' of punishment in the afterlife for those who, through their own free will, reject God's grace and forgiveness and will have chosen to live eternally outside of God's presence.</p>
Vows	<p>Promises made between people or a person's promises to God. Wedding vows are promises which the bride and groom make, committing themselves to one another.</p>
Marriage symbols	<p>Features of the wedding ceremony that indicate the purpose and meaning of marriage. For instance, the wedding ring, being a continuous circle of precious metal symbolises the never-ending, precious love between the bride and groom.</p>

Judaism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Tenakh	The Jewish sacred text comprising of three sections; Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim.
Talmud	A collection of Jewish law and tradition; Mishnah and Gemara collected together. Study of the Talmud is an important religious duty for Jewish men.
Covenant	A solemn and binding promise or agreement between two parties. Covenants were made between God with Noah, Abraham and Moses
Brit Milah	Circumcision – removal of the foreskin of the penis on the eighth day after birth. It is regarded as a sign of God's covenant with his chosen people. Translates as 'Covenant of the Cutting'.
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	Bar Mitzvah - Son of the Commandment. A boy who reaches adulthood (age 13). It is usually marked by a synagogue ceremony and family celebration. Bat Mitzvah - Daughter of the commandment. A girl who reaches adulthood (age 12) It is usually marked by a synagogue service and family celebration.
Mezuzah	Literally 'door post'; a scroll enclosed in a case (often decorative) placed on right hand doorposts of every room in a Jewish home – except bathroom and toilet
Pesach	Also called Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt, celebrated in the Spring.
Magen David	'Shield of David', popularly called the Star of David. A six-pointed star which has become the symbol of Judaism. Its exact origin is unknown.
Abraham	The first Jew; the founder of Judaism. Abraham is believed to be the biological and spiritual ancestor of the Jewish people.
Moses	An important prophet. Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and took them to the Holy Land promised to them by God. He gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments from God and is considered to be the only human to have encountered God directly (in the Burning Bush)
Promised Land	The land of Canaan, promised to Abraham and his descendants by God (today known as Israel)
Tefillin	Small leather boxes containing passages from the Torah, strapped on the forehead and arm for weekday, morning prayers. This is observed by Orthodox Jewish men of bar mitzvah age and over.

Islam – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Prophet	A messenger of Allah. The Qur'an says there are 25 prophets in Islam, beginning with Adam and ending with the Prophet Muhammad.
Isa	Isa is the 24 th and penultimate prophet of Islam. In Christianity he is known as Jesus. Muslims believe Isa to be a messenger of God, and in no way divine. Isa is believed to have had a miraculous, fatherless birth. He was a healer of the sick and foretold the coming of the final prophet, Muhammad.
Muhammad	The final prophet of Islam, to whom the Qur'an was revealed.
Ummah	Means 'community' and refers to the world wide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity.
Mosque	'Masjid' in Arabic, a 'place of prostration' for Muslims; it is a communal place of worship for a Muslim community.
Mecca/Makkah	Islam's holiest city, located in Saudi Arabia. Mecca (or Makkah) is the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad and the place where Islam originated. Mecca is the site of the Ka'aba, Islam's most sacred shrine, and is the destination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. Muslims pray and worship facing towards Mecca, wherever they may be in the world.
Burkha	A long, loose-fitting garment which covers the whole body from head to feet. It is worn in public by some women, and is compulsory for women in some Islamic countries.
Hijab	Often used to describe the headscarf, veil or modest dress worn by many Muslim women, who are required to cover everything except face and hands in the sight of anyone other than immediate family.
Al-Qadr	The Muslim term for 'predestination' which means Muslims believe God has set out the destiny of all living things.
Akirah	The Muslim term for the belief in the Final Judgement and life after death.
Lesser Jihad	The word jihad means 'to strive'. Lesser jihad is a physical struggle or 'holy war' in defence of Islam.
Eid-UI-Fitr/Id-UI-Fitr	Celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends.

Hinduism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Karma	The belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atman will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; one could gain positive and/or negative karma.
Samsara	The constant change or cycle of the world through a process of birth, death and being reborn through reincarnation.
Moksha	Release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; spiritual liberation; ultimate union with God.
Caste (Varna)	The Hindu social classes, passed from one generation to the next: the divisions of Hindu society.
Ashramas	The four stages of life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the student stage - Brahmachari • the householder stage - Grihastha • the retired life/hermit stage - Vanaprastha • the wandering monk stage - Sannyasa
Ahimsa	Non-injury to living things; the doctrine of non-violence.
Diwali	Hindu festival of Lights (sometimes Diwali or Deepavali); this celebrates good conquering evil and invites the goddess Lakshmi into the home.
Holi	The Spring festival of colours; also of fire and water.
Reincarnation	The rebirth of a soul/atman into a new body after death.
Dharma	The religious and moral duty in relation to a person's status in Hindu society, 'considered by many, but not all, to be linked to caste.
Ramayana	One of the two great epics of India that tells the story of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu, and Sita, a princess and avatar of the goddess Lakshmi.
ISKCON	International Society for Krishna Consciousness, also known as the Hare Krishna movement.

Sikhism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Granthi	Reader of the Guru Granth Sahib at ceremonies and worship in the gurdwara. A granthi holds no hierarchical status, but can teach and advise the community on religious matters.
Guru Gobind Singh	The tenth and final human guru of Sikhism, who established the Khalsa in 1699. Prior to this event, he was called Guru Gobind Rai.
Lavan	A short hymn of four verses by Guru Ram Das, included in the Guru Granth Sahib. It is read during the Sikh wedding ceremony (Anand Karaj), whilst the couple walk around the Guru Granth Sahib four times; one circulation for each of the four verses of the Lavan.
Gurpurbs	The celebrations of the anniversary of the birth or death of a Guru; a gurpurb is also a celebration of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib as the final Guru in 1604.
Baisakhi	The Sikh harvest festival that also marks the day in which Guru Gobind Singh formed the first Khalsa in 1699.
Diwali	Festival of Lights (sometimes Diwali or Deepavali) important in Hinduism and Sikhism. For Sikhs this festival celebrates good conquering evil, marking the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, who freed 52 other Hindu princes with him.
Martyrdom	To experience severe hardship, suffering or death because of one's religious or political beliefs.
Cremation	To dispose of a dead person's body by burning it to ashes.
Khalsa	The community of fully initiated Sikhs. They have undergone the initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanskar, wear the Five K's and take the obligatory name of 'Singh' or 'Kaur'.
Guru Arjan Dev	The fifth of ten human Gurus who compiled the Adi Granth, and who was martyred for refusing to remove Hindu and Islamic references.
Caste	Social divisions of Hindu society which Sikhism strives to avoid
Chauri	A fan, usually made of horsehair with a wooden or metal handle. It is waved by the granthi when reading the Guru Granth Sahib. This is a symbolic action reminiscent of the customary fanning of important visitors in India, to keep the air around them cool and free from insects, showing the important status of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Buddhism – core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Anicca	The impermanent nature of all things.
Anatta	No independent or permanent self or 'soul'
(S)kandhas	The five elements that make up a human being: form, sensation, perception, mental formations and consciousness.
Vihara	Buddhist temple and monastic residence.
Bodhisattva	An enlightened being, who postpones his own enlightenment in order to seek enlightenment for others by continuing on the wheel of samsara rather than accepting Nirvana/Nibbana
The Five Precepts	Five rules, or more accurately goals to live up to for all Buddhists. Buddhists aim to refrain from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harming living things • taking what is not freely given • sexual misconduct • misuse of speech • clouding the mind with intoxicating substances
Puja	Worship; expressions of honour and devotion. Acts of puja may involve chanting, bowing and making offerings.
Stupa	Monument containing the relics of the Buddha, and features symbolising the life and teachings of the Buddha.
Theravada	'The Way of the Elders'; the more traditional of the two major traditions of Buddhism . They accept only the teachings of the Pali Canon.
Mahayana	'Great Vehicle'; a more liberal, progressive version of Buddhism. Mahayana Buddhism recognises a large amount of scripture outside of the Pali canon.
Mudras	Symbolic hand gestures used in worship.
Triratna	'The Three Jewels' to which Buddhists 'go for refuge': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buddha • The Dharma (Dhamma) • The Sangha

PART B – ETHICAL THEMES

Theme 1 - Relationships

KEY CONCEPTS

Adultery	Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse.
Divorce	To legally end a marriage.
Cohabitation	To live together in a sexual relationship, without being married, or in a civil partnership.
Commitment	A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something.
Contraception	Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant
Gender equality	People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives.
Responsibilities	Actions/duties you are expected to/feel obligated to carry out.
Roles	Position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them.

Theme 2 – Human Rights

KEY CONCEPTS

Censorship	The practice of suppressing and limiting access to materials considered obscene, offensive or a threat to security. People may also be restricted in their speech by censorship laws.
Discrimination	Acts of treating groups of people, or individuals differently, based on prejudice.
Extremism	Believing in, supporting and acting upon ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.
Human rights	The basic entitlements of all human beings, afforded to them simply because they are human.
Personal conviction	Something a person strongly feels or believes in.
Prejudice	Pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without cause.
Relative and Absolute Poverty	<p><i>absolute poverty</i> - an acute state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of their human needs.</p> <p><i>relative poverty</i> - a standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which a person lives, e.g. living on less than X% of average UK income.</p>
Social justice	Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. Ensuring that everyone has equal access to provisions, equal opportunities and rights.

UNIT 3 – Catholic Christianity

PART A: RELIGION

Catholic– core beliefs, teachings and practices

KEY CONCEPTS

Bible	The collection of writings which Christians believe to be revealed by God made up of the Old and New Testaments.
Conscience	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
Judgement	The belief that God will judge whether or not humans are worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Stations of the Cross	Fourteen or fifteen drawings or locations (usually inside a church) that let worshippers follow the milestones of Christ's journey on the day of his crucifixion.
Advent	The season of awaiting Christ's coming; the four Sundays' preparation for the season of Christmas.
Epiphany	The feast celebrating the 'shining forth', 'manifestation' or revelation of the Incarnation. Celebrated on the twelfth and final day of Christmas, it is a celebration of the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus.
Lent	The forty-day season of fasting, prayer and preparation leading up to Easter.
Pilgrimage	A journey of religious significance to a holy site or shrine. A Catholic may also regard their journey through life itself as a pilgrimage.
Revelation	God making himself known to humankind; for instance, through the Bible.
Purgatory	The process of being purified of sin before uniting with God in heaven.

<p>Liturgical year</p>	<p>Also called the Church year or the Christian calendar, the Catholic liturgical calendar is the annual cycle of seasons and feasts based around the mysteries of Christ. The liturgical year begins with Advent, and ends with the feast of Christ the King.</p> <p>The liturgical year is divided into six periods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advent 2. Christmas 3. Ordinary Time after Epiphany 4. Lent and Holy Week 5. Easter 6. Ordinary Time after Pentecost.
<p>Confessionals</p>	<p>A booth or a stall within a Catholic church, where a priest sits to hear confessions. This is where the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance often takes place.</p>

Catholic – core beliefs, teachings and practices

Question 2

KEY CONCEPTS

Pope	The Bishop of Rome, head of the Catholic Church.
Religious vows	Sacred promises of poverty, chastity and obedience, made by monks and nuns, religious sisters and brothers
Icthus	An image of a fish, made from two intersecting arcs. Reportedly used as a secret symbol of early Christianity. The Greek word for fish, ICHTUS, made an acronym for Christ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iota (i) is the first letter of Iesous (Greek for Jesus) • Chi (kh) is the first letter of Khristos (Greek for Christ) • Theta (th) is the first letter of Theou (Greek for God, or “God’s) • Upsilon (u) is the first letter of Huios (Greek for Son) • Sigma (s) is the first letter of Soter (Greek for Saviour)
Apostolic succession	The lineage of Catholic bishops, going back to Jesus’ apostles. All Catholic bishops are considered part this lineage that can be traced back to the time of the apostles.
Infallible	Without error. The belief that, under strict conditions, the teaching of the Pope on behalf of the Church is protected from error. The teaching of the Church is always infallible, but the teaching of the Pope alone is also, in rare circumstances. There have been two papally infallible statements in the history of the Church.
A religious	A person who has taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; a monk or a nun, religious sister and brother.
Chi Rho	A Christian symbol consisting of the intersection of the capital Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P), which are the first two letters of ‘Christ’ in Greek (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ, Christos). The Chi-Rho can represent either Christ or Christianity.
Immaculate Conception	The belief the God preserved the Virgin Mary from the taint of Original Sin from the moment of her conception.
Veneration	The act of regarding something with utmost respect and reverence; honouring, but not worshipping, a saint or a very holy person.
Theotokos	From <i>Theos</i> meaning “God” and <i>tokos</i> meaning ‘bearer’ or ‘birther’, the title given to the Virgin Mary, bearer of Christ.
Retreats	Taking time out of ordinary daily life to focus on matters of God, religion and spirituality; time to communicate with God through prayer and reflection.
Crucifix	A representation of the cross with a figure of the crucified Jesus on it.

Theme 1 – Relationships (Catholic perspective)

KEY CONCEPTS

Adultery	Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse
Divorce	To legally end a marriage
Cohabitation	To live together in a sexual relationship, without being married, or in a civil partnership
Commitment	A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something
Contraception	Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant
Gender equality	People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives
Responsibilities	Actions/duties you are expected to, or feel obligated to, carry out
Roles	Position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them

Theme 2 – Human Rights (Catholic perspective)

KEY CONCEPTS

Censorship	The practice of suppressing and limiting access to materials considered obscene, offensive or a threat to security. People may also be restricted in their speech by censorship laws.
Discrimination	Acts of treating groups of people, or individuals differently, based on prejudice.
Extremism	Believing in, supporting and acting on ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.
Human rights	The basic entitlements of all human beings, afforded to them simply because they are human.
Personal conviction	Something a person strongly feels or believes in
Prejudice	Pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without cause
Relative and Absolute Poverty	<p><i>absolute poverty</i> - an acute state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of their human needs.</p> <p><i>relative poverty</i> - a standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which a person lives, e.g. living on less than X% of average UK income.</p>
Social justice	Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. Ensuring that everyone has equal access to provisions, equal opportunities and rights.