

## WJEC AS GCE in Religious Studies

# Glossary of Key Terms

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### *NOTE TO CANDIDATES*

Very often the terms referred to in the Glossary are by definition controversial, with no settled meaning. Indeed, the terms themselves may well be the basis of a question in the examination. The brief definition provided in these lists is merely a general introduction and should not be treated as sufficient for the answering of questions asked about the specific terms as listed.

Terms which are used in the specification are printed in **bold** print. It is particularly important to be familiar with these, as they may be used on examination question papers.



**RS1/2 CS: Introduction to Religion in Contemporary Society (AS)**

<b>ahimsa</b>	The principle of non-violence
<b>animal rights</b>	The belief that animals are entitled to certain protections from unnecessarily cruel or inhumane treatments
<b>archetype</b>	A typical example of something; the original from which others are copied
<b>authoritarian</b>	Demanding total obedience and restricting freedom of choice
believing community	A group of people who share a common set of beliefs and ideas; an alternative way of referring to a faith community
blood sports	Any sport that allows animals to be hurt or killed, often in order for the participants or audience to gain enjoyment
<b>charismatic</b>	Literally mean 'gifted'; this term is often used to refer to groups within Christianity who believe that God has given them certain gifts (cf Romans 12) or powers, such as speaking in tongues or healing, etc. Worship within these groups is very often characterised by displays of these gifts from within the congregation.
<b>collective unconscious</b>	The Collective Unconscious is universal. It cannot be built up like one's personal unconscious is; rather, it predates the individual. It is the repository of all the religious, spiritual, and mythological symbols and experiences. Its primary structures—the deep structures of the psyche, in other words—Jung called <i>archetypes</i> , a later-Hellenistic Platonic and Augustinian Christian term that referred to the spiritual forms which are the pre-existent prototypes of the things of the material world. Interpreting this idea psychologically, Jung stated that these archetypes were the conceptual matrices or patterns behind all our religious and mythological concepts, and indeed, our thinking processes in general.
<b>concept</b>	An idea or principle
conscious/unconscious	The concept that the unconscious mind is responsible for heavily influencing conscious thought and behaviour, to the degree that Freud claimed that human beings effectively had no free will because of this
culling	The act of killing animals to reduce their numbers, usually when there is weakness or illness amongst the animal population
<b>environmental</b>	Relating to the environment, ie people are asked to care for the environment
ethical	Observing or practising certain accepted standards or codes of moral behaviour

<b>euthanasia</b>	Literally meaning 'easy death', the termination of life usually to relieve the suffering of an individual who is in tremendous pain because of serious illness
- active	When a person deliberately does something which causes the death of the patient
- passive	Occurs when the patient dies because something is not done that is necessary to keep the patient alive, e.g. switching off life-support machinery, disconnecting a feeding tube, not administering life-extending drugs or not carrying out a life-extending operation
- voluntary	When the person requests to die, maybe asking for help in assisting them to die; refusing to eat; refusing medical care that will extend their life, or similar actions
- non-voluntary	When the person is unable to make their wishes known regarding euthanasia, e.g. they are in a coma; too young; senile; severe mental illness; or similar conditions
Free to Air	Description of any television channel that does not require its viewers to pay to watch its programmes
<b>Freud</b>	Sigmund Freud. Widely considered to be the father of modern psychology; born in Austria in 1865 and died in London in 1939. He is best known for his theories of the unconscious mind and the defence mechanism of repression. His theories, which resulted in him redefining sexual desire as the primary motivational energy of human life which is directed toward a wide variety of objects, as well as his therapeutic techniques, including his theory of transference in the therapeutic relationship and the presumed value of dreams as sources of insight into unconscious desires, are still regarded as important in the understanding and development of modern psychology.
<b>fundamentalism</b>	The term emerged in the 1920s to describe American Protestant Christians who affirmed certain beliefs as the 'fundamentals' of faith. In 1910 a series of religious pamphlets began to be published by a group of American and British theologians called <i>The Fundamentals: A Testimony of Truth</i> . They were aimed at promoting what the writers regarded as the essential basic beliefs of Christianity, <i>ie</i> the inerrancy (freedom from error) of the Bible; the creation of the universe by God; the reality of miracles, including Jesus' virgin birth and resurrection; the substitutionary atonement of Christ (that Jesus' death paid for the sins of humanity); the Second Coming of Christ. Fundamentalists were those who accepted <i>The Fundamentals</i> . More recently the term has been applied to other religions as well, to encompass any person who displays any or all of the following nine behavioural characteristics: reactivity to the marginalisation of religion; selectivity; moral dualism; absolutism and inerrancy; millennialism and messianism; elect membership; sharp boundaries; authoritarian leadership; behavioural requirements.

<b>hospice movement</b>	Originating after the founding of St Christopher's Hospice in 1967, by Dame Cicely Saunders, the movement has expanded throughout the UK. The aim is to support patients with terminal illnesses, and to optimise the patient's comfort. Hospice teams consist of a number of health and care professionals, each dedicated to particular aspects of the process of alleviating the suffering being faced by the patient. A key aspect of the hospice movement is that the care is always free to the patient.
<b>illusion</b>	An idea or belief which is not true
<b>individuated</b>	Formed into a separate, distinct entity
<b>individuation</b>	In Jungian psychology, the gradual integration and unification of the self through the resolution of successive layers of psychological conflict
<b>inerrancy</b>	The belief that something or someone is completely free of error
<b>Jung</b>	Carl Jung was born in Kessewill, Switzerland, in 1875. He studied medicine at the University of Basle and psychology in Paris. He became a physician in Zurich and a lecturer in psychiatry and he travelled around the world. In 1912 he founded his own school of psychology in Zurich. He then became Professor of Psychology at the Federal Polytechnical University of Zurich. Jung proposed and developed the concepts of the extraverted and the introverted personality, archetypes, and the collective unconscious
<b>mass media</b>	A term used to denote a section of the media specifically envisioned and designed to reach a very large audience such as the population of a country
<b>materialism</b>	The belief that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life
<b>medical</b>	Related to the treatment of illness and injuries; in ethical terms relating to matters of these treatments.
<b>moral</b>	Relating to the standards of good or bad behaviour, fairness, honesty, etc. which each person believes in, rather than to laws
<b>- absolutes</b>	The concept that there are absolute standards against which moral questions can be judged, and that certain actions are right or wrong, no matter what the context of the act.
<b>- compromises</b>	Settling moral differences by mutual concession
<b>mystery</b>	Something that is strange or unknown and which has not yet been explained or understood

mystical experience	This can be described as a transient, extraordinary experience marked by feelings of unity, harmonious relationship to the divine and everything in existence, as well as euphoria, sense of noesis (access to the hidden spiritual dimension), loss of ego functioning, alterations in time and space perception, and the sense of lacking control over the event
natural habitats	The natural environment where an organism lives
<b>negation</b>	To cause something to have no effect and therefore to be useless
<b>neurosis</b>	A mental illness which results in high levels of anxiety, unreasonable fears and behaviour and, often, a need to repeat actions unnecessarily
<b>New Religious Movements (NRMs)</b>	A religious faith, or an ethical, philosophical or spiritual movement of recent (or relatively recent) origin that is not part of an established denomination, church, or religious body
<b>oedipus complex</b>	The boy's tendency, around the age of five, to experience his freshly awakened sexual strivings toward his mother while wanting to replace his father in her affections. Mostly unconscious. When successfully resolved, these feelings are fully repressed, and the boy, afraid of castration, learns to identify with his father. As a result of all this, he internalizes his parents and acquires a superego whose ego ideal replaces some of his early narcissism. The name comes from King Oedipus, who killed his father, married his mother unknowingly, and put his own eyes out (which Freud interprets as symbolic castration) when he discovered the truth of his origins.
<b>orthodox</b>	Beliefs or ideas considered traditional, normal and acceptable by most people
<b>phenomena</b>	Things that exist and can be experienced empirically, especially those which are unusual or interesting
philosophical	relating to the study or writing of philosophy
populated by symbolism	Jungian concept that the religious worldview is one in which is immersed in symbols
primal horde	Freud's idea was that both totemism and primitive taboo have their origin in Darwin's 'primal horde'. In this hominid group, the strongest tyrannical male dominated the females, and as his young approached maturity they were driven off by him. His offspring, dispossessed, one day united, killed and ate the father, and liberated the women whom they took for themselves

**prophetic meaning of dreams/visions**

Jungian concept that dreams may occasionally offer, through our unconscious, glimpses of the future

**projection**

Freud considered this a defence mechanism in which an individual attributes his/her own unacceptable or unwanted thoughts and/or emotions to others. Projection reduces anxiety by allowing the expression of the unwanted subconscious impulses/desires without letting the conscious mind recognize them.

**psychic**

That which is related to the mind as opposed to the body

**- health**

The state of mind an individual possesses; this can be both positive and negative

**- reality**

Concept developed by Freud to denote the level of reality specific to unconscious processes

**psychological**

Mental or emotional as opposed to physical in nature

**- explanations**

Those that appeal to what the person believes, desires, fears, expects

**- health**

In a positive sense it is a state of being in which an individual is stable and balanced; however, in a negative sense it refers to the presence of mental or psychological problems

**- weakness**

Where an individual's behaviour is undermined by some perceived flaw in their psychological make-up. In Freud's view, religion was a form of neurosis (a psychological flaw) and was therefore indicative of an individual's psychological weakness

**quality of life**

Where certain conditions are present that determine how well an individual can live their life

**rational thought**

The application of reason or logic within a given situation.

**regress**

To return to a previous and less advanced or worse state, condition or way of behaving

**religion**

The belief in and worship of a god or gods, or any such system of belief and worship

**- organised religion**

An institution to express belief in a divine power

**religion-specific**

Television programming that is centred on a religious theme, such as worship, witness or moral debate

<b>religious</b>	That which relates to religion
- <b>concepts</b>	Abstract ideas that are entirely within the realm of the metaphysical or spiritual
- <b>diversity</b>	Where significant differences of opinion among individuals who seem to be equally knowledgeable and sincere, who apparently have access to the same information and are equally interested in the truth, affirm incompatible perspectives on religion
- <b>institutions</b>	Established organisations that are primarily religious in character
- <b>narrative</b>	Concept that religion is initially met through stories. This means that the religion is accessed at an emotional, rather than intellectual, level and therefore embeds itself more deeply into the psyche
- <b>pluralism</b>	A term that can be interpreted a number of different ways, e.g. referring to religious diversity; accepting other religions' validity as well as inter-religious dialogue. The term has different meanings according to religious, cultural and social context.
- <b>principles</b>	Basic ideas or rules that explain or control religious behaviour, belief and practice
<b>ritual</b>	A set of fixed actions and, often, words, performed regularly, especially as part of a ceremony
<b>repression</b>	The process and effect of keeping particular thoughts and desires out of one's conscious mind in order to defend or protect it
<b>sacred writings</b>	Scriptures from a religious tradition, usually held to be authoritative within that tradition
<b>sanctity of life</b>	The belief that all life is sacred or God-given
<b>scientific thought</b>	System based on observation and experiment
<b>secular</b>	That which has no connection with religion
- <b>authority</b>	Authority which is derived from a basis other than religion, e.g. political

<b>secularisation</b>	The process whereby religious thinking, practices and institutions lose social significance
- indicators of	There are six classic indicators of secularisation ( <i>as per specification</i> ): differing definitions of religion (including those based on belief in the supernatural or an adherence to a believing community and those expressed in terms of a value-system or a set of meanings to life); participation in organised religion; religious influence in society; growth of religious pluralism; moral compromises and materialism of religious institutions; emergence of mass media
self-deprecating	Conscious of one's own shortcomings
<b>Simpsons</b>	Long running animated comedy set in the fictional American town of Springfield. Renowned for its satirical views on contemporary American life, including the ways in which religion is observed and practised
<b>soap opera</b>	A long running serial concerned with everyday life
sociological	Related to or involving sociology, the study of the relationships between people living in groups, especially in industrial society
<b>speciesism</b>	Being prejudiced towards or discriminating against something on the basis of its species; also the idea that being human is a good enough reason for human animals to have greater moral rights than non-human animals.
<b>spirituality</b>	The quality of being concerned with deep, often religious, feelings and beliefs, rather than with the physical parts of life
<b>stability</b>	When something is not likely to move or change
<b>stewardship</b>	Looking after something for someone or controlling it effectively.
<b>stereotype</b>	Fixed, commonly held notion or image of a person or group, based on an oversimplification of some observed or imagined trait of behaviour or appearance
<b>sublimation</b>	Diverting strong emotions or using energy by doing an activity, especially an activity which is considered socially acceptable
supernatural	Caused by forces that cannot be explained by science
<b>symbolism</b>	The use of symbols in art, literature, films etc. to represent ideas

<b>textual criticism</b>	This is concerned with the identification and removal of errors from texts and manuscripts. Ancient manuscripts often have errors or alterations made by scribes, who copied the manuscripts by hand. The textual critic seeks to determine the original text of a document or a collection of documents, which the critic believes to come as close as possible to a lost original (called the archetype), or some other version of a text as it existed, or was intended to exist, in the past
theological	Relating to theology, the study of God and things relating to the concept of God.
totemic	Relating to totemism and may include any of the following: the practice of having a natural object or animate being, as a bird or animal, as the emblem of a family, clan, or group; the practice of regarding such a totem as mystically related to the family, clan, or group and therefore not to be hunted; a system of tribal organization according to totems. From Freud's perspective the father figure was replaced by a totemic ideal.
value-system	The principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group
vegetarianism	Following a diet which excludes all animal flesh – including poultry, game, fish, shellfish or crustacea, and slaughter by-products. Reasons for choosing to follow this diet are varied but may include reasons based on moral, religious or cultural choice, amongst others.
<b>watershed</b>	A time in television schedules when it is permissible to show programmes that contain adult content
<b>wish-fulfilment</b>	Attempts by the unconscious to resolve a conflict of some sort, whether something recent or something from the recesses of the past

## RS1/2 ETH: Introduction to Religion and Ethics (AS)

<b>absolutist</b>	A proponent of absolutism (see below)
<b>absolutism</b>	The view that there are universal moral norms which apply in all situations and at all times to all people; the view that certain actions are always good or evil, regardless of the context or situation in which the act is performed. Examples of absolutism include the Ten Commandments or Aquinas' Natural Law
<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 depending based on the consequences it produces. Bentham presumed that pleasure should be sought and pain avoided. He developed the principle of utility or the greatest happiness principle, which states that an action is right if it produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number
<b>adultery</b>	Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and another person who is not his or her spouse. Sometimes also referred to as extra-marital sex
<b>agapē</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 situationalist. There are no rules, laws or principles which must be followed: the situation itself will provide the solution, which can be found through intuition
<b>applied ethics</b>	The application of ethical theories to practical situations and moral dilemmas
<b>Aquinas</b>	Thomas Aquinas, 13 <sup>th</sup> century Dominican priest (1224-1274), commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Famous works include <i>Summa Theologica</i> and <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> . Developed the ethical theory known as Natural Law or Natural Moral Law
<b>Aristotle</b>	Greek philosopher, originally student of Plato, who later developed his own distinct systems of philosophy, ethics and metaphysics. Also tutored Alexander the Great. Favoured deductive and inductive reasoning and laid the foundations for much of modern scientific forms for classification and investigation. He had an enormous influence on the history of thought, and developed virtue ethics

<b>Bentham</b>	Philosopher, economist and social reformer (1748-1832), who developed the theory known as Act Utilitarianism. He developed the principle of utility or the greatest happiness principle to help people achieve happiness. It states that an action is right if it produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number. He also devised the hedonic calculus as a means of measuring pleasure
<b>cardinal virtues</b>	There are four cardinal virtues identified by reason: prudence, justice, temperance and courage. Known as 'cardinal' virtues because the Latin term 'cardo' means 'hinge'. They are believed to form the fundamental basis of a moral life and were terms used both by Aristotle and Aquinas
<b>certainty</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<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>civil partnerships</b>	The legal recognition of a same-sex couple's relationship whereby they register as civil partners of each other. Since December 2005 in the UK civil partners have equal treatment to married couples in a wide range of legal matters, including taxation and nationality
<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.
<b>consequentialist</b>	A proponent of consequentialism (see below)
<b>consequentialism</b>	The view taken by some ethical theories that moral decisions should be based entirely on the effects or consequences produced by actions, as in Utilitarianism or Situation Ethics. Any action is good if it brings about beneficial consequences and bad if it brings about harmful ones
<b>creator</b>	A title given to God in several world religions, which refers to the fact that God designed and brought the world into being
<b>deontological</b>	A type of ethical theory which states that actions are right or wrong in themselves regardless of the consequences. This approach proposes that there are certain rules or principles that inform or guide people as to which actions are right or wrong, e.g. Aquinas' Natural Law theory
<b>discriminatory</b>	Behaving differently towards a person or group on the basis of their gender, sexual orientation, racial group, ethnic origin or religion

<b>doctrine</b>	A body of teachings of a religious, political, or philosophical group
<b>duration</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<b>efficient cause</b>	The agent which causes something to happen; term used by Aristotle and developed by Aquinas in natural law theory.
<b>ethics</b>	This term comes from the Greek word <i>ethikos</i> , which in its root form ( <i>ethos</i> ) means custom or habit. For the 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>	Conforming to accepted standards of social or professional behaviour
<b>extent</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<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>fecundity</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<b>final cause</b>	The ultimate aim or natural purpose of something, e.g. the final cause of a pen is decent writing; a term used by Aristotle and developed by Aquinas in his Natural Law theory
<b>final purpose</b>	Aquinas believed that the final purpose for humans was to gain eternal life in heaven with God. This could be achieved by living a moral life and re-establishing a right relationship with God (which was broken by Adam and Eve when they sinned against God and brought about original sin)
<b>Fletcher, Joseph</b>	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 love or 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>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, which is the eternal law
- divine law	Divine law is God's eternal law given through scripture and in the Church's teachings
- natural law	Some aspects of God's eternal law are also accessible via natural law which 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 are also derived from natural law
<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 decide what the most loving action in any given situation would be. They are personalism, positivism, pragmatism and relativism.
<b>gay</b>	Generally refers to male homosexuality, but is sometimes used in a wider sense, especially in the media to refer to homosexuality in general
<b>gay marriage</b>	A phrase used to describe the fact that a homosexual couple have received a blessing given through a religious act of worship which recognises that they have been through a legal civil partnership ceremony
<b>gay sex</b>	Sexual activity between men
<b>happiness</b>	The term used by Utilitarians to describe pleasure which is 'good'
<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 included the intensity, duration, certainty, extent, propinquity, fecundity, purity of the pleasure an act produces (see <i>seven criteria</i> )
<b>higher pleasures</b>	Term used by JS Mill to distinguish between different forms of happiness. Higher pleasures are superior pleasures and are pleasures of the mind—intellectual pursuits, spiritual reflection—and are superior to lower pleasures. He believed that the quality of happiness produced by an act was more important than the quantity
<b>homosexual</b>	Referring to someone who is attracted emotionally and physically to persons of the same sex

<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>intensity</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<b>interior/exterior acts</b>	Terms used by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory to distinguish between the motive for an act and the act itself. The interior act is the motive/intention for performing an act. The exterior act is the actual act itself. In order for an act to be truly good, both the interior and exterior acts must be good
<b>justice</b>	Treatment of people with equality and fairness, both generally and before the law
<b>legalism</b>	An ethical approach based on prescribed rules by which people can make every moral decision. Legalism is linked to the idea that obedience to a code of religious law is necessary in order for a person to gain eternal life.
<b>lesbian</b>	A female homosexual
<b>- lesbian marriage</b>	A phrase used to describe the fact that a lesbian couple have received a blessing given through a religious act of worship which recognises that the couple have been through a legal civil partnership ceremony
<b>- lesbian sex</b>	Sexual activity between women
<b>lower pleasures</b>	Term used by JS 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>major world religion</b>	The world's principal religions and spiritual traditions, which include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism
<b>marriage</b>	The formal union of a man and a woman by which they become husband and wife
<b>Mill</b>	John Stuart Mill (1806—1873), British philosopher, political economist, civil servant and Member of Parliament, was an influential liberal thinker of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. He was an Utilitarian, following an ethical theory developed by Jeremy Bentham (his mentor), although his form of Utilitarianism was 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>moral</b>	That which is right or good
<b>Natural Law</b>	Ethical theory based on the concept of a final cause or purpose which determines everything's proper or natural use or goal; a body of universal general moral truths deduced from reason and experience; view associated with Aristotle and developed by Aquinas
normative ethics	Exploration and discussion of whether or not general principles and rules exist which can determine ethical attitudes and behaviour
<b>original sin</b>	Humanity's state of sin resulting from the Fall of Man; said to result from the time when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit of a particular tree in the Garden of Eden. This first sin ( <i>the original sin</i> ), an <i>action</i> of the first human beings, is traditionally understood to be the cause of original sin, the fallen <i>state</i> from which human beings can be saved only by God's grace
<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>pleasure</b>	A subjective view of happiness or something which brings this to an individual.
- lower pleasure	Term used by Mill to describe inferior pleasures – pleasures of the body - satisfying the bodily needs for food, water, sleep, etc
- higher pleasure	Term used by Mill to describe superior pleasures - pleasures of the mind: intellectual pursuit/spiritual reflection.
<b>positivism</b>	One of Fletcher's four working principles: means one must accept that acting in the most loving way is the right thing to do without any rational proof that it is. Love provides justification, not proof, for an ethical decision. Agape is morally right without question.
<b>practical ethics</b>	See <i>applied ethics</i>
pragmatism	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>quality</b>	Mill's form of Utilitarianism stated that the quality or high standard of happiness an act produced was more important than the quantity
<b>quantity</b>	Bentham's Act Utilitarianism was concerned with the quantity or amount of happiness produced by an action—the greatest happiness for the greatest number

<b>primary precepts</b>	The five main purposes of humankind's existence (given by God) according to Aquinas' Natural Law theory - to worship God, to live in an ordered society, to reproduce, to learn and to defend the innocent. These are 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>purity</b>	See <i>seven criteria</i>
<b>rational/rationality</b>	The ability to think logically or sensibly; possessing the ability to reason
<b>real/apparent goods</b>	Aquinas believed that we should use our ability to reason to distinguish between what he called real and apparent goods. A real good is something that helps us to become nearer to the ideal human nature that God had planned for us e.g. being a sociable person. An apparent good is a vice that takes us further away from the ideal human nature that God had planned e.g. taking drugs or alcohol in an attempt to become more sociable. Aquinas believed that no one knowingly pursues evil by choosing a good, but sometimes we don't use our ability to reason properly and this error occurs.
<b>reason</b>	The ability of the mind to think, understand and to form logical judgements
<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
<b>relativistic</b>	The approach to ethical situations based on the idea that there are no universal moral norms or rules and that each situation has to be looked at independently because each situation is different
<b>religious authority</b>	A source of power and guidance within a particular religion. Forms of religious authority could include God (as the supreme source of authority), sacred texts, leaders, tradition, an individual's conscience and their ability to reason
<b>remoteness</b>	One of the seven criteria found within Bentham's hedonic calculus, which he used to measure pleasure. This means: how close in time is the pleasure for those involved?

<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 their being infused through divine grace into the person. Also often called theological virtues because they are directed to the divine being (Greek word - <i>theos</i> ), God.
<b>richness</b>	Or fecundity; see <i>seven criteria</i>
<b>Rule Utilitarianism</b>	Theory of Utilitarianism based on general principles or rules of behaviour; a view associated with John Stuart 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.
<b>- strong</b>	A strong rule utilitarian believes that any rules formulated and established through the application of the utilitarian principle should never be broken
<b>- weak</b>	A weak rule utilitarian tries to allow for the fact that in some situations breaking a rule originally created because it generally fulfils the principle of utility may be the right course of action, because in this particular situation breaking the rule is more likely to fulfil the principle of utility than keeping the rule.
<b>sacred texts</b>	The texts which various religious traditions consider to be holy or of central importance to their religious tradition
<b>sanctity</b>	Holiness or sacredness, that is, set apart for the worship or service of God e.g. the importance of the sanctity of marriage.
<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 ‘return property to those from whom it was stolen.’ However, the secondary precepts have to be interpreted in the context of the situation and there is some flexibility in extreme cases. For example if someone owned a gun that had been stolen from them but intends to kill others with it upon its return then you would not return it as this is the rational thing to do.
<b>secular</b>	Not having any connection with religion. When something is referred to as secularised it means that any religious influence, power or control has been removed from it; e.g. ‘Britain is becoming an increasingly secularised country’.

<b>seven criteria</b>	The criteria of the hedonic calculus by which an Act Utilitarian attempts to measure pleasure and determine whether or not an action is right;
- <b>certainty</b>	how sure are you that the pleasure will happen?
- <b>duration</b>	how long does the pleasure last?
- <b>extent</b>	how many people does the pleasure affect?
- <b>intensity</b>	how strong is the pleasure?
- <b>purity</b>	how free from pain is the pleasure?
- <b>remoteness</b>	how close in time is the pleasure for those involved?
- <b>richness</b>	how much more pleasure will this lead to?
<b>sex</b>	Sexual activity, usually a reference to sexual intercourse
<b>sexuality</b>	How people experience and express themselves as sexual beings
<b>sexual orientation</b>	A pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to men, women, or both sexes
<b>sin</b>	An act, word or deed considered to be wrong , which goes against a religious law given by God
<b>six fundamental principles</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only one thing is intrinsically good; namely, love: nothing else at all</li><li>• Only the principle of love provides a reasonable base by which to make judgements of right and wrong</li><li>• Love and justice are the same, for justice is love distributed, nothing else</li><li>• Love wills the good of others, regardless of feelings</li><li>• A loving end justifies the means</li><li>• Love's decisions are made situationally, not prescriptively.</li></ul>
<b>Situation Ethics</b>	Ethical theory based on the premise that the right course of action is to do the most loving thing and that the most loving thing varies from situation to situation; first suggested by Joseph Fletcher

<b>St Paul</b>	Often referred to as St Paul the Apostle (formerly known as Saul of Tarsus), one of the most notable early Christian missionaries, who had a great influence on Christian thought. According to The Acts of the Apostles (a book contained in the New Testament section of the Bible) he experienced a religious conversion on the road to Damascus. Before this he had been a persecutor of Christians. Fourteen letters (or epistles) contained within the New Testament have traditionally been attributed to him
<b>teleological</b>	Relating to the effects or consequences produced by actions
<b>temperance</b>	Practicing self-control or restraint, abstention, and moderation. The ability to control instincts and desires in order to be considered honourable. One of the four cardinal virtues
<b>theological virtues</b>	See <i>revealed virtues</i>
<b>theory</b>	A set of principles on which an activity is based
<b>tradition</b>	A long established custom or belief passed on from generation to generation. Religious tradition is therefore the passing on of religious beliefs, concepts and attitudes from one generation to another
<b>Utilitarianism</b>	A consequentialist theory based on the principle of utility. This states a person should perform the action that will achieve the greatest happiness for the greatest number in that particular situation
<b>utility</b>	Usefulness; the principle of utility or greatest happiness principle was devised by Bentham, who thought it would be 'useful' for society if pleasure was sought and pain avoided.
<b>virtuous</b>	Someone possessing good moral qualities or virtues which can be developed through habit or instruction e.g. courage. A type of behaviour promoted through Aristotle's Virtue Theory and Aquinas' Natural Law theory

## RS1/2 PHIL: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion (AS)

a posteriori	On the basis of experience; used of an argument, such as the cosmological argument, which is based on experience or empirical evidence
a priori	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
aesthetic	An appreciation of beauty
<b>aesthetic principle</b>	The belief that humans have an inherent appreciation for things such as art, music, literature and nature, which aids nothing to our survival as a species but is purely for our own pleasure and enjoyment
agnosticism	The state of not knowing or asserting the impossibility of knowing if God exists
<b>anthropic principle</b>	The concept that all fundamental features of the universe are necessary as they are for the origin, development and maintenance of human life; term used in the teleological argument
atheism	The view that there is no God
<b>Aquinas</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Century Dominican priest, commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Famous works include <i>Summa Theologica</i> and <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> .
<b>Aristotle</b>	Greek philosopher, originally student of Plato, but later developed his own distinct systems of philosophy, ethics and metaphysics. Also tutored Alexander the Great. Favoured deductive and inductive reasoning and laid the foundations for much of modern scientific forms for classification and investigation. One of the most important figures in the founding of ideas that have influenced the development of Western civilisation
Augustine	Early Church Father, Augustine of Hippo, 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 theodicy</b>	Argument based on ideas that evil is caused by created beings, not God, and that God is justified in permitting evil to occur
<b>authenticity</b>	When something is genuine, real or true.
beneficent	Performing good acts; helping people

<b>classical theism</b>	The generally accepted ideas, prevalent in the main Western religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) relating to God and his characteristics, i.e. that God is omnibenevolent, omnipotent and omniscient
<b>contingency</b>	Something which may or may not be—the opposite of necessity; term used in the cosmological argument
<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</b>	William Lane Craig, one of the proponents of the modern day Kalam aspect of the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God
critique	An examination or report on another's ideas, usually in terms of a negative response
deductive proof	Argument constructed on factually true premises reaching a valid, inevitable and certain conclusion
<b>design</b>	Relating to the teleological argument, the suggestion that the world in which we live demonstrates both order and purpose, leading to a conclusion that this could not have happened by random chance but demonstrates evidence of design and therefore is the result of a designer
efficient cause	That which is capable of bringing about a desired result
emotional	A feeling, usually intense or strong in nature, such as love or fear
<b>empirical</b>	Based on what is experienced or seen
<b>empiricism</b>	The view that knowledge is best gained through experience, observation and/or experiment
epistemic distance	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
eschatological verification	Meaning that all things will be made clear or 'verified' in the end times or 'eschaton'. Can also mean that a person will find out the truth of the matter after death
<b>evil</b>	That which produces suffering; the moral opposite of good
<b>existence of God</b>	The belief that 'God exists' in a state that can be experienced, felt, proved or quantified
<b>first cause</b>	The concept of the necessary existence of an original Being to cause the existence of the universe; term used in the cosmological argument

<b>five ways</b>	Thomas Aquinas' five-fold basis of proof for the existence of God arguing for a Prime Mover, First Cause, Necessary Being, Absolute Value and Divine Designer
free will	The concept that a rational being is able to completely freely determine their own futures or destinies through true freedom in making decisions, both ordinary and moral
Free Will Defence	Attempt to reconcile the reality of evil with the existence of God by arguing for the necessity of evil in order to enable full and genuine human freedom
Hick	John Hick, modern day philosopher of religion. Champion of religious pluralism; also developed Irenaeus' Theodicy
<b>Hume</b>	David Hume, 18 <sup>th</sup> Century philosopher, whose work relating to empiricism was hugely influential on the twentieth century logical positivists. His <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> (published after his death) are particularly influential on the development of the philosophy of religion.
illusion	An idea or belief which is not true
<b>inconsistent triad</b>	This idea proposes that God cannot be both omnibenevolent and omniscient and allow evil to exist
inductive proof	Argument constructed on possibly true premises reaching a logically possible and persuasive conclusion
<b>Irenaean theodicy</b>	Argument based on ideas that human beings were not created perfect and remain imperfect and that evil is necessary to permit human freedom of choice
Irenaeus	Early Church Father (2 <sup>nd</sup> Century). Developed a theodicy which put part of the blame on the existence of evil and suffering onto God. Irenaeus saw evil and suffering as necessary in the development of humans towards moral perfection.
<b>James, William</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> Century psychologist renowned for investigations into religious experience and mysticism
<b>kalam argument</b>	Argument for the existence of a personal Creator based on the idea of the universe being finite and having a beginning; a teleological argument
<b>Kant</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher, critic of rational arguments for the existence of God, preferring the moral argument to contend for God's existence and life after death
<b>Kenny</b>	In his work <i>The Five Ways</i> (1965) Kenny refuted Aquinas's arguments by making reference to scientific advances in understanding how the universe works. He showed how Newton's Law of Motion disproved Aquinas' First Way.
<b>Leibnitz</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher and mathematician, whose principle of sufficient reason supports the cosmological arguments for the existence of God

<b>Luria, Isaac</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> century Jewish mystic who was influential in the development of the Kabbalist tradition within the Western world
<b>Meister Eckhart</b>	Circa 13 <sup>th</sup> century Christian mystic
<b>Miller</b>	Ed Miller, one of the proponents of the modern day Kalam aspect of the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God
<b>moral evil</b>	Suffering caused by human actions
<b>mystic</b>	One who practises mysticism
<b>mysticism</b>	Experiences or systematic meditation which cause a heightened awareness of the divine
<b>motion</b>	The concept that, within the universe, all things are moving from states of potentiality to actuality
<b>natural evil</b>	Suffering caused by natural environmental phenomena
<b>natural selection</b>	The process whereby favourable traits within a species are bred into the genetic make-up of each generation and the less favourable are bred out. Sometimes referred to as 'survival of the fittest'
Natural Theology	Philosophical system based on the natural world and reason, such as Aquinas' Five Ways
objectivity	The ability to make judgements based upon facts and not influenced by personal beliefs or feelings
omnipotent	All-powerful; one of the traditional attributes of the God of Classical Theism
omniscient	All-knowing/seeing; one of the traditional attributes of the God of Classical Theism
<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
<b>Paley</b>	18th century Archdeacon of Carlisle, famed for his Watchmaker analogy, which forms part of the teleological argument for the existence of God
Phillips	20 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher who articulated (contra Irenaeus) that it could never be morally justifiable to hurt someone in order to help them
<b>physical evil</b>	Suffering which is brought about via the physical world

<b>Plato</b>	Greek philosopher, considered one of the fathers of Western thought, he was the tutor to Aristotle. Originally a pupil of Socrates (all that we know of Socrates is preserved within the writings of Plato, and others, as Socrates himself did not write philosophical texts). Plato's theory of the Forms or Ideas has been hugely influential in the development of philosophy. His analogy of the cave is a useful illustration of how he viewed the relationship of the material world to this realm of the Forms
privation	Deprivation or absence of something; term used in Augustinian theodicy
<b>probability</b>	The likelihood of something happening or being true
<b>problem of evil</b>	The philosophical notion that evil should not exist if God possesses the characteristics traditionally ascribed to him
Process Theology	Philosophical system based on emphasis of God's immanence and denial of God's omnipotence; associated with A.N. Whitehead and David Griffiths' process theodicy
<b>purpose</b>	The reason why something is in existence or being done
<b>rationalism</b>	View that true knowledge is gained only through reason
<b>religious experience</b>	An experience which is denominated by certain characteristics, as identified by the scholars such as James, Swinburne, Moonan, et al.
<b>Rumi</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Century Persian Sufi mystic produced many influential works of both prose and poetry
<b>Russell</b>	Bertrand Russell; 20 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher who introduced the expression 'philosophical logic'. Rejected the cosmological argument on the grounds that there was no need to ask where the universe came from but that we should just accept its existence as a 'brute fact'.
Schleiermacher	Prominent German theologian and philosopher of the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries. Responsible for producing an effective critique against the Augustinian Theodicy
seminal presence	An Augustinian reference to the idea that, biologically, the whole human race was present 'within Adam's loins'
<b>Shankara</b>	Circa 8 <sup>th</sup> Century Indian philosopher, was the first philosopher to consolidate the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. His teachings are based on the unity of the soul and Brahman, in which Brahman is seen as without attributes.
<b>soul-making</b>	A concept within the traditions of the Irenaean theodicy that describes how suffering helps humans develop morally (from God's 'image' into his 'likeness' – cf Genesis 1:26)
<b>St Teresa of Avila</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> century Spanish mystic and Carmelite nun. Her writings were produced primarily for teaching purposes although they are now regarded as some of the most influential mystical texts within the Catholic tradition

<b>suffering</b>	The experience, or showing the effects, of something which is evil or bad
- animal	Part of natural world, lives and moves but, in this context, refers to non-human
- immense	Huge magnitude of scale; can also refer to intensity
- innocent	Pure and guilt free
<b>sufficient reason</b>	The principle suggested by Gottfried Leibniz that all things need a full and proper explanation or 'sufficient reason' in order to explain why they exist
supernatural	Those forces which cannot be rationally explained by science
Swinburne	Modern day philosopher Richard Swinburne, influential in his work on the existence of God, religious experience and miracles
<b>teleological argument</b>	Argument for the existence of God based on observation of design and purpose in the world
Tennant	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century philosopher who developed forms of aesthetic arguments to infer the existence of an intelligent designer behind the Universe. Within his book, <i>Philosophical Theology</i> , 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>theodicy</b>	Argument justifying or exonerating God; term used in relation to the existence of evil and suffering
<b>watchmaker analogy</b>	Famous analogy of William Paley, relating the intricacies and design of a watch (which therefore implies an intelligent watchmaker) to the similarly observed intricacies of the phenomenal universe, therefore implying an intelligent 'universe-maker', i.e. God

## RS1/2 BS: Introduction to Biblical Studies (AS)

### SECTION A: Introduction to the Old Testament (AS)

1 & 2 Samuel	Two Old Testament books based on the stories of Samuel, Saul, the first king of Israel and David, the second king
<b>2 Kings</b>	The second book of Kings, relating the history of the last years of Judah's independence
<b>Abraham/Abrahamic</b>	Abraham: the first patriarch, the father of the Hebrew nation; Abrahamic = relating to Abraham
aetiological legend/myth	Story giving a supposed explanation of the origin of a custom, name or object
<b>Amos</b>	A prophet of the 8th century BCE
<b>ancient Near Eastern</b>	Treaties made between Hittite overlords (suzerains) and their subject kings (vassals) in biblical times; see Suzerainty Treaties below
anoint	To touch, smear or rub with oil; used as a sign of dedication to a deity or of having a special relationship with God
anthropomorphic	In the likeness of a human being; term used in describing how some biblical writers conveyed what God is like
<b>apocalyptic</b>	Something relating to the final destruction of the world
<b>apocalyptic literature</b>	Revelatory writing, the purpose of which was to convey a message of protest against persecution and to sustain the courage and faith of the oppressed; a literary device sometimes described as history in the guise of prophecy
Ark of the Covenant	A portable rectangular wooden box or chest, symbolising the presence of God and containing the Decalogue (Ten Commandments)
burnt offering	The complete burning of a beast to gain atonement with God for the offerer; part of the Old Testament sacrificial system
chosen people	The Israelites, who believed that God had elected them as his special people
circumcision	A Jewish rite that involves cutting off the foreskin
<b>covenant</b>	Binding agreement between two parties based on promises and obligations
- <b>conditional</b>	subject to certain requirements
- <b>unconditional</b>	with no conditions attached

cultic myth	Story of alleged historical events recited publicly by a priest during a festival or ritual to glorify a deity or confirm a special relationship with a deity
<b>Daniel</b>	A biblical book purporting to give the story of Daniel, a 6th century BCE official at the Babylonian court
<b>David</b>	The second king of Israel, considered to be the pattern for Israelite kingship
Davidic covenant	The covenant made between God and David, recorded in 2 Samuel 7:8-16
Deportations	The compulsory transportation of Judah's ruling classes to Babylon
- first	In 597 BCE; 3,000 people were deported
- second	In 587 BCE; the beginning of the Babylonian exile
Deuteronomic history/ historian	The section of the Old Testament that runs from the Book of Joshua to 2 Kings, which may have been written by one historian, or, more likely, a school of historians, under the influence of the Book of Deuteronomy
divine message	A message from God
Egyptian bondage	The time when the ancient Hebrews were slaves of the kings of Egypt
<b>elect nation</b>	Israelites believed that God had chosen, or 'elected', them to be his favourite people
Elohim	General Hebrew name for God; plural form signifying possession of all divine attributes
eschatological myth	Story describing a final, future situation
ethnological legend	Story seeking to explain the origin and development of a race, culture or custom
<b>Exile</b>	The deportation of Israelites to Babylonia
<b>Exodus</b>	The Hebrew departure from Egyptian slavery, dated variously between the mid-sixteenth century BCE and the mid-thirteenth century BCE
<b>Ezekiel</b>	A prophet who preached during the Babylonian exile
fall of Jerusalem	The destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587 BCE
<b>fundamentalism</b>	The view that the Bible is divinely inspired, inerrant and infallible
<b>Genesis</b>	The first book of the Bible, giving an account of creation and the first inhabitants of the earth

geographical legend	A story that attempts to explain geographical phenomena
geological legend	A story that attempts to explain geological phenomena
Hebrews/'Apiru	A mysterious people who, according to the records of Near Eastern states in biblical times, attacked empires from a desert base; some people think that they were the ancestors of the Hebrews
<b>high place</b>	Hill or elevated platform used for sacrifice, sometimes associated with forbidden cultic practices and worship of foreign gods
<b>historical interpretation</b>	An explanation given by the study of history
historicity	Historical authenticity; whether something is historically true or not
<b>Hittite</b>	An ancient people who established an empire in the Near East circa 1700-1200 BCE
house of Judah	The kings who reigned from Jerusalem, after about 920 BCE, when the Israelite kingdom split into two, as opposed to the 'house of Israel', which refers to the kings who ruled from Samaria after that date
hymn	A religious song of praise
idolatry	Worship of false gods
<b>Isaiah</b>	A prophetic book in the Old Testament; it is generally accepted that the book is made up of three different strands: (i) the work of First Isaiah, who prophesied in Jerusalem in the 8th century BCE; (ii) the work of Second Isaiah, who prophesied during the Exile; (iii) the work of a number of prophets who wrote after the return to Jerusalem circa 520 BCE, gathered together under the title 'Third Isaiah'
<b>Israelite</b>	Relating to the people of Israel
<b>Jeremiah</b>	A prophet who preached in Judah for forty years before the fall of Jerusalem
judgement	An opinion or verdict, usually pronounced by God on his people's disobedience
Judges	Charismatic Israelite tribal leaders in the 12th and 13th centuries BCE; biblical book consisting of a collection of stories about these leaders portraying a cycle of apostasy, oppression, anarchy, repentance and deliverance
Law	A system of rules, believed to have been laid down by God, to establish good behaviour, in particular the Ten Commandments; the first five books of the Old Testament are known as 'the books of the Law', or, in Hebrew, the Torah

<b>legend</b>	A story based on an historical fact or presented in an historical context which offers an explanation or seeks to make a point
literary genre	A style or category of literature
metaphor	A figure of speech; words used to convey something by reference to something else, e.g. 'the sun is smiling'
<b>monarchy</b>	Rule by a king or queen; a state ruled in that way
<b>Moses/Mosaic</b>	Moses: the Hebrew leader who led his people from Egyptian bondage; Mosaic: relating to Moses
<b>myth</b>	A story conveying truth through symbolism; often a story about God's activity, or human encounter with the supernatural, originally told or ritually acted out in Hebrew worship
mythology	A collection of myths
narrative prophecy	Prophecy in the form of a story
<b>Noah/Noahic</b>	Noah: a character in the Book of Genesis, with whom God made the first covenant (never again to destroy the world by a flood); Noahic: relating to Noah
oracle	Prophetic statement conveying alleged divine response to human question or dilemma
<b>origin myth</b>	See <i>aetiological legend/myth</i>
Passover	Annual Jewish festival celebrating Hebrews' deliverance from Egyptian slavery and the special relationship between Yahweh and the Hebrew/Jewish people
Patriarchal Narratives	Stories contained in Genesis chapters 12-50
peace offering	Division of a sacrificed animal between God, priest and offerer to (re)establish fellowship between God and the offerer; part of the Old Testament sacrificial system
prestige myth	Story which gives the birth or achievements of an individual or group of people an aura of mystery and wonder
promissory elements	Parts of a prophecy, story etc. that contain an assurance that something will happen
<b>pro-monarchy/ anti-monarchy</b>	Pro-monarchy: those who were in favour of establishing kingship in Israel; anti-monarchy: those who opposed kingship
<b>prophecy</b>	Proclamation conveying alleged communication from a deity, often regarding coming punishment or deliverance, in the form of an oracle, message speech, woe-utterance, trial speech, dirge or hymn
prophetic	Relating to prophecy or the prophets
righteousness	Being morally right or good

<b>ritual myth</b>	Story accompanying a ritual to aid the efficacy of that ritual
ritual purity	The state of being pure according to religious law
royal theology	The ideas about God held by the court of King David and his successors, i.e. that God had chosen Israel for his people, David and his successors to be kings, and the Temple in Jerusalem as his dwelling place
Sabbath	For Israelites, the seventh day of the week, when no work was to be done, to commemorate God's rest on the seventh day of creation in the Book of Genesis
Salvation	Saving or protecting someone from harm or from the consequences of sin
<b>Saul</b>	The first king of Israel
<b>Solomon</b>	David's son by Bathsheba; the third king of Israel, famous for his wisdom
<b>suzerainty treaty</b>	A covenant made by a Hittite emperor with a vassal whereby the vassal promised loyalty and service in return for protection from enemies; see <i>ancient Near Eastern treaties</i> above
- deposition of copy	Putting a copy aside for safe-keeping
- preamble	A section at the beginning of a written work presenting its theme, main characters etc
- prologue	An introduction
- sanction	A threatened penalty or punishment
- stipulation	Something specified as part of an agreement
- witnesses	Persons who are present at the signing of a document
<b>symbols</b>	A thing that stands for something else, e.g. the Red Dragon is a symbol of Wales
theocracy	Government or rule by God or by rulers who claim to act on behalf of God
<b>theological interpretation</b>	An explanation given by a study of theology, bringing out the religious significance
trial speech	A speech made at a court of law
wisdom literature	Writing which reflects philosophically on life and offers practical advice on living, ranging from pithy general statements to books wrestling with specific questions about the meaning and problems of life
woe utterance	A statement of sorrow or distress
<b>world-consciousness</b>	The way in which one sees the world
Yahweh	Probable pronunciation of the sacred personal divine name YHWH; name derived from the verb 'to be' meaning 'he is', 'he will be' or 'he causes to be' (i.e. the Creator)

## SECTION B: Introduction to the New Testament (AS)

1 Corinthians	The first of two letters written by Paul to the church at Corinth
allegory	A story which contains a hidden meaning
<b>Birth Narratives</b>	The stories about Jesus' birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke; the stories are similar but not identical
<b>Bultmann</b>	Rudolf Bultmann (1884-1976); a German theologian; the most influential exponent of Form Criticism, best known for his conviction that the narratives of the life of Jesus were offering theology in the language of myth, which should be explained so as to be intelligible today
<b>Centurion's Servant</b>	A miracle of Jesus recorded in Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10 and John 4:43-54
<b>concept</b>	An abstract idea
<b>credible</b>	Something that can be believed
<b>crucifixion</b>	Execution by nailing to a cross
demoniac	Relating to or resembling a demon
demythologization	Removing the mythological elements from a text
<b>divine</b>	Relating to God
<b>doctrine</b>	A teaching that forms the basis of a belief
<b>early Christian community / Church</b>	The society of those who believed in Jesus as described in the New Testament
<b>ethical</b>	Relating to morals
<b>exorcism</b>	Driving out an evil spirit
faith response	Reacting on the basis of belief
<b>Feeding of the Five Thousand</b>	A miracle of Jesus recorded in Matthew 14:13-20 and in parallel passages in Mark, Luke and John
<b>Form Criticism</b>	A study of New Testament literature which seeks to determine the original form of a narrative or saying of Jesus
<b>Gadarene Demoniacs</b>	A miracle of Jesus recorded in Matthew 8:28-34

<b>Gerasene Demoniac</b>	A miracle of Jesus, similar to the above, recorded in Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 8:26-39
<b>Good Samaritan</b>	A parable of Jesus recorded in Luke 10:25-37
<b>Great Banquet</b>	A parable of Jesus recorded in Matthew 22:1-10 and Luke 14:15-24
<b>harmonise/harmonisation</b>	To make things consistent with each other
<b>historical accuracy/authenticity</b>	Whether or not an account is historically true or correct
historicity	An enquiry into the genuineness of the events described in terms of history; a consideration of the extent to which such events have a factual basis
Holtzmann	Heinrich Julius Holtzmann (1832-1910), a German New Testament scholar who, in 1863, proposed Marcan priority, arguing that Matthew was based on Mark and on the <i>Logia</i> of Papias, and that Luke was based on both Matthew and Mark
<b>human (Jesus)</b>	The Jesus who lived on earth in biblical times and whose life and work are recorded in the New Testament
<b>divine (Jesus)</b>	The Jesus who is the Son of God, who has always existed and will always exist
<b>healing</b>	Within the religious context, the restoration or improvement of physical, mental or spiritual health brought about by supernatural intervention, usually understood as Divine. There are also instances of people believing themselves to possess a 'gift' of healing, given by God. Establishing the actual veracity of such healings often provokes great controversy, with differing opinions being put forward. There is a section of the church that believes that divine healing was limited to the time of Christ for him to be able to signify through mighty works his divinity. Some claim that illness is a product of sin or a lack of faith, and that therefore physical healing will be the consequence of true repentance.
<b>Incarnation</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
interpretation	The determining of the meaning of a text, according to available evidence, internal, external, and comparative
inter-testamental	Between the Old Testament and the New
<b>John</b>	The author of the fourth gospel
<b>Logos</b>	Greek for 'Word'; Jewish philosophers used the term to denote God in action; Greek philosophers used it to denote the life principle in the world; John taught that Jesus was the Logos, the Word of God.

<b>Luke</b>	The author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts
<b>Mark</b>	The author of the second gospel; chronologically, however, it is generally accepted that his gospel was the first
<b>Matthew</b>	The author of the first gospel; however, it is generally accepted that he borrowed much from Mark, and that Mark's gospel was written first
<b>Messiah</b>	Hebrew for 'anointed'; in the Old Testament it was used for the Israelite king; later it came to denote the long-awaited Saviour of Israel; New Testament writers are convinced that the Messiah is Jesus of Nazareth
<b>miracle</b>	An event incapable of being described in purely natural or human terms, although its description might possibly be open to such an interpretation
<b>miracles</b>	Actions that contravene the laws of nature and that are considered to be the work of God
<b>myths/mythological</b>	Myths: traditional stories involving supernatural beings; mythological: relating to myths
<b>narratives</b>	Stories
<b>nature miracle</b>	A miracle that is performed not on a person but on something that is part of the natural world, e.g. Calming the Storm in Mark 4:35-41 and parallels
<b>parable</b>	A story told to illustrate a particular teaching, drawn from the reality of the world with which both the teller and the audience would be familiar. Deliberately ambiguous, a parable is open to various interpretations. The New Testament hints that the 'true' interpretation has to be revealed according to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, otherwise it remains beyond the reach of purely human reasoning.
<b>Pauline</b>	Relating to the apostle Paul
<b>Philo</b>	A first century Jewish philosopher
<b>Prodigal Son</b>	A parable of Jesus recorded in Luke 15:11-32
<b>raising</b>	Resuscitating someone, bringing someone back to life
<b>Redaction Criticism</b>	A study of the gospels based on the assumption that each evangelist edited the material available to him from a particular theological point of view
<b>restoration of Israel</b>	Restoring the nation of Israel to the glories that it had once enjoyed, particularly in the Davidic age

<b>resurrection</b>	What was purportedly experienced by Jesus after his death. Described in terms of appearances and recorded as such. Developed theologically by Paul in terms of contemporary religious experience as something that would be shared by those who belong to Christ
- <b>general resurrection</b>	The idea that everybody will be resurrected
- <b>of believers</b>	The idea that only those who believe in Jesus will be resurrected
- of Jesus	The story of Jesus' resurrection is recorded in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:1-10; the accounts are similar but not identical
resuscitating	Bringing someone back to life; resuscitation differs from resurrection because a resuscitated body shows no change from what it was formerly; the resurrected body is different, e.g. the resurrected Jesus could walk through locked doors and disappear at will
Sadducees	A Jewish sect that denied the possibility of resurrection and emphasised the importance of the written Law
Schweitzer	Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), a theologian from Alsace-Lorraine; in his <i>Quest of the Historical Jesus</i> (1906) he interpreted the life of Jesus in the light of Jesus' own eschatological convictions, arguing that Jesus' ethic was a way of life good only for the brief period before the eschaton, which Jesus hoped to bring about by his death
short saying	A brief and unexplained saying of Jesus; e.g. Mark 4:21 and 24
simile	A comparison; saying something is like something else
simple story	A story that it is not difficult to explain, e.g. the Parable of the Mustard Seed in Mark 4:30-32 and parallels
<b>Sower</b>	One who sows seeds; Jesus' Parable of the Sower is recorded in Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:1-9 and Luke 8:4-8, and is followed in each case by an explanation attributed to Jesus
<b>supernatural elements</b>	Elements that cannot be explained by science or the laws of nature
Synoptic Gospels	The first three gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), which bear extraordinary similarities to each other; from the Greek word meaning 'with one eye'
<b>theological interpretation</b>	An explanation given by a study of theology, bringing out the religious significance
<b>Widow of Nain</b>	A miracle of Jesus recorded in Luke 7:11-17
Wrede	William Wrede (1859-1906); a German theologian famous for his investigation of the Messianic Secret theme in the gospel of Mark, i.e. that Jesus kept his messiahship a secret to his inner group of supporters

## RS 1/2 CHR Introduction to Christianity (AS)

<b>Anabaptists</b>	Group which emerged in opposition to Zwingli in Zurich. Central teaching was the rejection of infant baptism in favour of believer's baptism. Name means 'rebaptizers'.
anamnesis	'Remembering'; a word used to refer to that part in the eucharistic prayer that recalls God's mighty works for humankind in the past, especially in Jesus, including the origins of the eucharist in the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper
Anglican	Relating to the Church of England or any Church associated with it, e.g. the Church in Wales and the Episcopal Church of Scotland
<b>atonement</b>	An action, or series of actions—usually a sacrifice—by which guilt might be removed; Annual Day of Atonement, an aspect of Jewish liturgy, (Leviticus 23:26ff). Appropriated by Christian theology as a way of understanding the significance of Jesus' death (e.g. Hebrews 9:6ff)
<b>authority</b>	External: attaching to a person as an official, or to an office as an office Internal: residing in convincing argument, moral/spiritual example, experience
<b>baptism</b>	The rite whereby a person is made a member of the church. From the Greek, <i>baptizo</i> —'to dip'
- <b>believer's b.</b>	The baptism of adults who have first declared that they believe in Jesus
- <b>infant b.</b>	The baptism of babies in order to wash away original sin
<b>biblical authority</b>	The power of the Bible to enforce obedience
<b>Calvin, John</b>	Leader of the Reformation in Geneva (1509-1564)
<b>Catholic</b>	From the Greek, <i>Kath'</i> holou, 'On the Whole'. Post 1054, that part of the church in communion with the See of Rome, hence Roman Catholic. Post Reformation, term used in contrast to Protestant, in the west
<b>celebration</b>	Festival or special event, usually involving public participation
<b>charismatic</b>	Christian activity/worship guided directly by the Holy Spirit, manifesting the 'gifts of the Spirit'. Traditionally understood as Pentecostalist, more recently as 'Renewal'
<b>Christmas</b>	The annual festival of Christ's birth

Communion	(or Holy Communion) Name given to the eucharist in the Protestant tradition. In Roman Catholic tradition it refers to the actual receiving of the elements of bread and wine within the sacrament of the Mass. In another sense it can refer to churches that are linked 'in communion' together by a common sacramental belief and practice or mutual recognition (e.g. the Anglican Communion).
conscience	Moral sense of right and wrong; inner feeling as to goodness or otherwise.
credible	Something that can be believed
declaration of faith	Statement of belief
denomination	Church or religious sect
divine	Relating to God
- forgiveness	Pardon from God for breaking his laws
- nature	The distinctive characteristics of God
<b>Easter</b>	The annual festival of Christ's passion and resurrection. A Christian transformation 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>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. From the Greek, <i>Eucharistia</i> , 'thanksgiving'. Also used generically to describe the rite, however celebrated, but see also <i>Mass</i> and <i>Communion</i>
eucharistic	Relating to the eucharist
exorcism	Driving out an evil spirit
<b>extempore</b>	Usually refers to freely-expressed prayers, unwritten and not previously prepared
<b>Fall, the</b>	How humankind became alienated from God; the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3
<b>fresh expressions of Church</b>	New ways of proclaiming what it means to be a Christian, worshipping, or forming Christian communities

**God's**

- **kindness/severity** God's generosity and friendliness as opposed to his apparent harshness
- **love/wrath** God's affection for humans as opposed to God's anger at them
- **mercy/judgement** God's compassion for people as opposed to God's desire to punish them
- **unity** The idea that God is One, even though three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**glossolalia** Speaking in tongues

**healing** Within the religious context, the restoration or improvement of physical, mental or spiritual health brought about by supernatural intervention, usually understood as Divine. There are also instances of people believing themselves to possess a 'gift' of healing, given by God. Establishing the actual veracity of such healings often provokes great controversy, with differing opinions being put forward. There is a section of the church that believes that divine healing was limited to the time of Christ for him to be able to signify through mighty works his divinity. Some claim that illness is a product of sin or a lack of faith, and that therefore physical healing will be the consequence of true repentance.

**Holy Spirit** The third Person of the Godhead, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son in the Western tradition) and gives life to the believer

**human condition** What people are like, the state they are in

**Iona** An inter-denominational community based on the Scottish island of Iona, working for peace and social justice, community and worship renewal; its Wild Goose publications produce books and CDs

**incarnate** Made human (literally 'flesh')

**incarnation** 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

**Jesus Christ** The second Person of the Godhead, the Son of God

**justification** Making people worthy before God

- **by faith** The idea that it is only belief in Jesus that makes people worthy before God
- **by works** The idea that good works make people worthy before God

**laity** People who are not ordained clergy

**lauds** A non-eucharistic evening service in a Catholic church, from Latin *laudare* = to praise

Law	A system of rules, believed to have been laid down by God, to establish good behaviour, in particular the Ten Commandments; the first five books of the Old Testament are known as ‘the books of the Law’, or, in Hebrew, the Torah.
<b>liturgy</b>	The order for an act of public worship
<b>liturgical</b>	Relating to liturgy
<b>Liturgical Movement</b>	A 20th century group of people who emphasise the importance of liturgy and try to restore the purity of liturgical worship
<b>Luther, Martin</b>	Author of the German Protestant Reformation (1483-1546)
<b>Mass</b>	Title normally given to the eucharist in the Catholic tradition
matins	A non-eucharistic morning service in a Catholic or Anglican church
memorial	Something set up in memory of a person or event
<b>memorialism</b>	The idea that the eucharist is nothing more than a meal in memory of Jesus
<b>monotheistic</b>	Relating to the belief that there is one God only
Morning and Evening Prayer	Non-eucharistic morning and evening services in an Anglican church
<b>non-eucharistic</b>	Forms of worship other than the eucharist, e.g. morning and evening prayer, preaching services, all-age worship
<b>non-liturgical</b>	Having no set order
<b>optimistic/pessimistic</b>	Optimistic: hopeful, confident; pessimistic: lacking hope and confidence
<b>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 Orthodox Church is usually defined in terms of national identity, e.g. Russian, Serbian, Greek etc.
<b>papal authority</b>	The power of the Pope to demand obedience
<b>paradox</b>	A statement that seems to contradict itself, e.g. God is kind and angry
Pentecost	The Christian festival celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ disciples; this happened on the Jewish festival of Pentecost, held on the fiftieth day after the second day of Passover; from Greek <i>pentēkostē</i> = fiftieth
Pentecostalism	A Christian movement which emphasises the gifts of the Holy Spirit, e.g. prophecy, healing and speaking in <b>tongues</b>
Person of Jesus	Who Jesus is – fully divine and fully human

<b>political</b>	Relating to politics; concerned with power within an organisation
pre-liturgical	Before liturgical worship was established
<b>private forms of devotion</b>	Forms of worship used privately by individuals
prophecy	Proclamation conveying alleged communication from a deity, often regarding coming punishment or deliverance, in the form of an oracle, message speech, woe-utterance, trial speech, dirge or hymn
<b>Protestant</b>	An adherent to the teaching of Luther. Broad term describing Christians who are not Roman Catholic or Orthodox. Often too wide to be defined exactly
<b>Reformation</b>	Umbrella term used to describe the teachings of Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and others. Located within the 16 <sup>th</sup> century, the ideas have themselves been subject to continuous 'reformation' within Protestantism
religion	Belief in a controlling, superhuman power, God or god(s) thought worthy of worship and obedience. That to which one is devoted.
religious experience	Initiated by the object of religious belief, as the means by which the truth of such belief is verified, appropriated through the senses, able to be described in terms of 'divine' activity
<b>resurrection</b>	The means by which the dead live after death. Specifically within Christianity, experienced by Jesus following his crucifixion. Described as the destiny for all human beings after death. A mode of living experienced by Christians following conversion
ritual	A solemn ceremony celebrating a religious belief
<b>ritual drama</b>	A dramatic presentation performed as part of such a ceremony
<b>sacramental</b>	Relating to the sacraments
<b>sacraments</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>sacrifice</b>	An act of killing an animal or a person as an offering to a deity
<b>salvation</b>	Saving or protecting someone from harm or from the consequences of sin

scripture	The sacred writings of a religion. That which describes its initiation, history, and teaching. Understood as in some way divinely inspired
<b>secular</b>	Activities other than the religious and/or the sacred
<b>secularisation</b>	The turning of society into a community that is not based on religious or sacred activities
<b>sin/sinner</b>	Sin: an act that breaks a religious law; sinner: one who commits such an act
socio-political causes	Causes combining social and political factors
sola fide	By faith alone; a Lutheran slogan
<b>sola scriptura</b>	By scripture alone; a Lutheran slogan
Son of God	Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God
spirituality	The cultivation of things that belong to the human spirit, to religion and religious belief, as opposed to material or physical things
<b>Spring Harvest</b>	An inter-denominational Christian organisation, launched in 1979, which provides a range of events, conferences and resources; its main event each Easter attracts some 55,000 people of all ages to one of a number of weeks at more than one location; it offers holidays at its holiday park in Le Pas Opton in western France
testimony	A statement given as evidence or proof of something
<b>theological</b>	Relating to theology, the study of God and religious belief
<b>traditions</b>	Customs, opinions or beliefs handed down from generation to generation. Religiously, believed to have originated with the divine. Patterns of beliefs and actions associated with an established group or congregation
<b>transubstantiation</b>	The Catholic doctrine that when the bread and wine of the eucharist are consecrated, they are converted into the body and blood of Christ
<b>Trinity/Trinitarian</b>	Trinity: in Christian belief, the three Persons of the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; trinitarian: relating to the Trinity
<b>virtualism</b>	Calvin's doctrine that the eucharist is only efficacious if the recipient is already one of God's elect
will of God	What God wishes or intends
<b>worship</b>	Reverence offered to a deity. Usually a formal act or service characterised by rites or ceremonies

## RS 1/2 ER Introduction to Eastern Religions (AS)

### SECTION A: An Introduction to Buddhism

Words used in the Specification are indicated in **bold** print.

Terms are in Pali (P) or Sanskrit (Skt), or both. Candidates may use any legitimate spelling.

Amida	The Buddha of infinite light and life, devotion to whom ensures rebirth in his pure land after death; he is the main buddha revered by the Pure Land School
<b>anatta</b> (P) anatman (Skt)	'No-self'. The view that there is nothing about the person which persists eternally without change
<b>anicca</b>	Impermanence, change—one of the three marks of existence
arhat (Skt) arhant (P)	'Worthy'. In Theravada Buddhism, the highest state attainable
<b>archetype</b>	A perfect example or model of something
atman (Skt)	The eternal soul in Hinduism
bhavachakra	The Tibetan wheel of life, sometimes called the 'Wheel of Samsara'
bodhisattva (Skt)	'Enlightenment Being'. In the Mahayana, a being who has postponed entry into nirvana in order to assist others
<b>Brahmin (Skt)</b>	In Hinduism, the highest caste. The Buddha criticised the caste system, and the power held by the Brahmins
Buddha (P, Skt)	'Enlightened One'. This term can refer to the 'historical Buddha'—Siddhartha Gautama (also known as Sakyamuni, Gotama). 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
caste (jati)	Subdivision within each varna in Hinduism, usually linked to occupation
<b>concept</b>	Something conceived in the mind; a thought or notion
<b>connectedness</b>	'Pratitya samutpada' - the way that things exist i.e. related or connected to each other
dana (P)	'Giving'. Lay people offer dana to the sangha, and in doing so gain merit
dhamma (P)/dharma (Skt)	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

<b>dukkha</b> (P) dukkha (Skt)	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
duty	A task, service or function arising from one's position or job
<b>enlightenment</b>	The condition the Buddha reached under the Bodhi tree. Buddhists say that this condition cannot be described. Another word for this is nirvana
<b>ethical</b> principles	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.
historicity	Historical authenticity
human condition	The characteristics of human life. The Buddha diagnosed the human condition as having three marks of existence
impermanence	The belief that nothing remains the same, is ever changing
initiation	To grant somebody membership of a religion, organisation or society, traditionally by formal rites.
kamma (P) <b>karma</b> (Skt)	The relationship between intentions/actions and consequences (not to be confused with some Hindu senses of the term as the force which drives reincarnation)
Kathina (P)	Ceremony at the end of the Rains Retreat, at which monks are presented with new robes
khandha (P) skandha (Skt)	The five impermanent 'aggregates' which make up the appearance of a human being—matter, senses, perception, mental formations, consciousness
<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.
magga	'The way': the Noble Eightfold Path.

Mahayana (Skt)	'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>meditation</b>	The main method used in Buddhism to transform people's minds from their present state of confusion, distraction, and emotional entanglement to a state of peace and clarity. Its importance in Buddhism is based on the Buddha's personal experience of its benefits.
<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 five others which are only followed by monks.
<b>myth</b>	A traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice, belief or natural phenomenon
nibbana (P) nirvana (Skt)	'Blowing out'. The goal and highest attainment for Buddhists. This term is often defined negatively to avoid the problem of attempting to define something that is ineffable. It is often described as the cessation (blowing out) of greed, hatred, ignorance, attachment, and egoism. It is sometimes seen as the opposite of samsara and dukkha. It is often spoken of as synonymous with enlightenment. Different traditions within Buddhism define it in different ways.
<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.
Parinibbana (P)	'Final nirvana'—the term often used to describe the physical death of the historical Buddha, to indicate that he will never again return to samsara
patimokkha (P)	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>pratitya samutpada</b>	Often translated as 'Conditioned Co-production', 'Interdependent Origination'. A description of reality, denoting that all phenomena are causally linked
<b>puja</b>	Literally means 'worship' but in Buddhism showing respect might be a better translation. It is a devotional ceremony.
Pure Land Buddhism	A form of Mahayana Buddhism which believes enlightenment is only possible in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha, into which the adherent who despairs of attaining enlightenment through self-effort is born

<b>reality</b>	The state of being real. Buddhists believe that enlightenment allows a person to see the true reality of things.
rebirth	The idea that one life is caused by another. The doctrine that we pass through many lives in the cycle of samsara
reincarnation	The Hindu idea that the essence of our 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 we reach liberation (moksha)
<b>renunciation</b>	Self-denial practised for religious reasons. The great renunciation refers to the Buddha leaving the palace and his family to seek answers to his questions.
samadhi (Skt)	The state of absorption reached during samatha meditation.
<b>samatha</b> (P, Skt)	Form of meditation designed to achieve mental tranquillity and the cessation of unwholesome mental activities
samsara (P, Skt)	This realm of birth, old age, sickness, death, rebirth, ignorance and dukkha
<b>Sangha</b> (P, Skt)	Strictly, the community of monks and nuns, but in the wide sense, the whole Buddhist community. The third of the three jewels
<b>self</b>	A person's individual character. The Buddha rejected the idea of a permanent self.
Siddhartha	The Buddha's original name. He is usually referred to as Siddhartha before his enlightenment.
<b>supernatural</b>	Departing from what is usual, so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature
tanha (P)	'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
Theravada (P)	'The Way of the Elders'—the last surviving school which uses only the Pali Canon. It is found in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand
<b>Three Jewels</b>	The three pillars of Buddhist religion—Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. The three are as important as each other and are completely dependant on each other.
<b>three marks of existence</b>	The Buddha's diagnosis of the human condition. The only thing we can be sure of is that there are three marks of existence—dukkha (suffering), anicca (impermanence) and anatta (no permanent self).
triratna (P, Skt)	'The three jewels': buddha, dhamma (teachings) and sangha (community), in which Buddhists 'take refuge'

Vassa (P)	The three month 'Rains Retreat', in which monks remain in intense meditation, and lay people may join the sangha for a period
vihara (P)	Monastery (Theravada)
Vinaya (P)	The portion of the Tipitaka (Pali Canon) which is the code of discipline
<b>vipassana</b> (P)	Insight meditation'—insight into the three marks of existence
<b>wheel of life</b>	The Tibetan wheel of life depicts the Buddhist concept of pratitya samutpada—the way things exist and are interdependent
<b>worship</b>	To regard with great or excessive respect, admiration or devotion. In the majority of religions it means honouring or offering reverence to a deity.
<b>zazen</b> (J)	'Sitting': a form of meditation practiced by the Soto Zen School

## SECTION B: Introduction to Hinduism

Words used in the Specification are indicated in **bold** print.

Terms are in Sanskrit. Because of different systems of transliteration, there are some alternative spellings of terms. Candidates may use any legitimate spelling.

<b>allegory</b>	A story, poem, painting etc that expresses truths or generalizations about human existence
ashrama/asrama	'Stage in life'. There are four stages: the student stage, the householder stage, the 'forest-dweller (retirement) stage and the renunciate stage.
<b>attributes</b>	A characteristic or quality, something associated with or belonging to a person or thing. Brahman is said to be without attributes.
<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. Kalki is yet to come.
<i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	Part of the <i>Mahabharata</i> , 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>bhakti</b>	Devotion. In bhakti traditions it is believed that love of God is the path to moksha (liberation).
<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>Brahmin</b>	The highest varna in Hinduism; priests and scholars; the most ritually pure
caste system	Jati – sub-division within each varna, usually linked to occupation.
<b>Dalits</b>	'Oppressed'. Name given to those without a varna, previously known as untouchables or Harijans
<b>deity</b>	God or Goddess
<b>devotional traditions</b>	Traditions which show great love, affection or dedication through worship of a particular god or goddess.
dharma	'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>divine</b>	Relating to a god or goddess.

<b>Diwali</b>	Hindu festival of lights, marking the beginning of the financial year. Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good-fortune is propitiated, and Hindus contemplate the return of Rama and Sita to Ayodhya (the <i>Ramayana</i> ).
<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
<b>Dussehra</b>	Celebration of Rama's victory over Ravana.
<b>Ganesh</b>	Elephant-headed son of Shiva. God of scholars and the overcoming of obstacles
<b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b>	Celebration of the birthday of Ganesh.
<b>gods, goddesses</b>	Deities which are all manifestations of Brahman.
<b>Harijan</b>	'Children of god'. The term given by Gandhi to the untouchables to denote his belief that discrimination against them was an injustice toward the divine. The term 'dalit' is now more widely used.
<b>henotheism</b>	The worship of one god, whilst acknowledging that there are others
<b>history</b>	A branch of knowledge that records and interprets past events
<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>humanity</b>	Humankind
<b>Kali</b>	A ferocious form of the Goddess, who represents the realities of time and death that must be faced
<b>Kali Puja</b>	Seeking the help of the goddess Kali for protection especially against drought
<b>karma</b>	The theory of cause and effect, action and reaction
<b>Krishna/Krsna</b>	One of the most popular Hindu gods, depicted in various ways: as the teacher of Arjuna in the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , as the lover of the Gopis and Radha in the <i>Bhagavata Purana</i> . 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>Lakshmi/Laxmi</b>	Goddess of wealth and good fortune. The consort of Vishnu, depicted with coins falling from her open palms. Worshipped especially at Diwali.

<b>Lakshmi Ganesh Puja</b>	One of the most important features of the Diwali festival. Lakshmi is worshipped for wealth and prosperity and Ganesh is worshipped to remove obstacles to obtaining that wealth and prosperity.
<i>Mahabharata</i>	An epic poem of 100,000 verses, an account of the conflict between two families which explores many Hindu themes. Part of book six is the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>
Mahisha	The buffalo-demon killed by Durga
moksha/moksa	'Release', 'liberation'—the fourth 'artha' or goal of Hinduism, the release from samsara
<b>monism</b>	The belief that only one substance exists ( <i>ie</i> Brahman)—such as in Advaita Vedanta philosophy
<b>monotheism</b>	The belief that there is only one God
<b>myth</b>	A traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice, belief or natural phenomenon
<b>Navaratri</b>	The festival of worship and dance, also called Durga Puja
<b>Parvati</b>	The goddess of the Himalayas, consort of Shiva
<b>polytheism</b>	The belief that there are many gods. (Many Hindu traditions are only apparently polytheistic in that they view the many gods as aspects of the one God, the Absolute, Brahman.)
<b>puja</b>	Worship. In Hinduism much worship takes place in the home.
Radha	Consort of Krishna. The relationship between Radha and Krishna provides the model for the relationship between god and the devotee.
<b>Rama</b>	The hero of the epic the <i>Ramayana</i> . Husband and rescuer of Sita, famed for his adherence to dharma. Seen as the seventh avatar of Vishnu
Ravana	Ten headed ruler of Lanka, defeated by Rama in the <i>Ramayana</i>
<i>Ramayana</i>	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.
rites of passage	Rites to mark passage through life—birth, initiation, marriage, death
<b>reincarnation</b>	The belief that the atman transmigrates. Human incarnation is rare.

Sacred Thread Ceremony	Upanaya – the ceremony which celebrates a boy coming of age and becoming twice born
samsara	'Wandering': the cycle of birth, death and rebirth as a consequence of karma
sannyasin	A wandering hermit who has left his family and lives his lives dependent on God alone
<b>Shaivism/Saivism</b>	One of the major theistic traditions of Hinduism, worshipping Shiva or one of his forms
Shiva/Siva	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>Shudra/Sudra</b>	The fourth of the varnas. Often translated as 'serf'. Not twice-born ( <i>ie</i> not wearers of the Sacred Thread)
<b>Sita</b>	Goddess of the furrow, wife of Rama. In the <i>Ramayana</i> her role is one of wifely virtue.
Vaishnavism	One of the major monotheistic traditions, worshipping Vishnu or one of his avatars
Vaishya/vaisya	The third of the four varnas; farmers and merchants
<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 practices commensality and endogamy.
<b>varnashramadharma</b>	Duty according to varna and stage in life. This term is sometimes understood to be synonymous with Hinduism.
Vishnu/Visnu	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.

## SECTION C: Introduction to Sikhism

Terms are in Punjabi/Panjabi. Because of different systems of transliteration, there are some alternative spellings of terms. Any legitimate spelling is acceptable.

<i>Adi Granth</i>	The Sikh scriptures—usually referred to as the <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> 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.
amrit	Nectar; mixture of sugar and water used in initiation
<b>amrit samskar</b>	The ceremony of initiation into the Khalsa
amritdhari	One who has received initiation'; a Khalsa Sikh
Amritsar	The town which is the focus of Sikh religious life, where the Golden Temple stands
Baisakhi /Vaisakhi	Main Sikh festival, which remembers the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699
<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>equality</b>	One of the main features of Sikh teaching is its emphasis that everyone is equal
<b>five 'k's</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>God</b>	
- creator	According to Sikh teaching God is creator of the universe.
- Guru	Divine teacher who communicates with humanity – Sat Guru.
- One	Time and again the Gurus proclaimed that God is 'one without a second' that is having no partner or agent through whom creation, the sustaining of the world, or liberation was effected.
Golden Temple	The Harmandir Sahib, built by Guru Arjan at Amritsar
<b>gurdwara</b>	'Gateway of the guru'—a building for congregational worship (though anywhere housing a copy of the <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> is a gurdwara). The focus is the <i>Guru Granth</i> , and worshippers pay their respect by covering their heads, removing their shoes and prostrating themselves before the book.
gurmukhi	'From the mouth of the Guru'—the script attributed to Guru Angad, in which the <i>Adi Granth</i> is written

<b>gurpurbs</b>	Anniversary of a Guru's birth or death
<b>guru</b>	Teacher, one who leads the disciple from darkness in to 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 <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i>
<b>Guru Arjan</b>	Responsible for building the Golden Temple at Amritsar and installing in it the Adi Granth
<b>Guru Gobind Singh</b>	The founder of the Khalsa in 1699 and the Guru who conferred guruship on the scripture now known as the Guru Granth Sahib
<b>Guru Granth Sahib</b>	The title given to the <i>Adi Granth</i> after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship upon the book
<b>Guru Nanak</b>	First Guru and the founder of Sikhism
<b>Guru Tegh Bahadur</b>	The second martyr Guru, who rallied his community and supported Hindus in resistance to Aurangzeb's policy of Islamisation
Guruship	The role of a guru
Harmandir Sahib	The Golden Temple in Amritsar
Ik Onkaar	'One'. The opening word of the Mul Mantra (and therefore of the <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> ). The central Sikh notion of the oneness of God
Islamisation	The policy of forcing people to accept Islam
janam sakhis	Collection of hagiographic stories about Guru Nanak
Japji	The introductory poem of the <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> , commencing with the Mul Mantra, written by Guru Nanak.
kaccha	One of the five K's: shorts, replacing the dhoti, enabling swift action in war, symbolising chastity and continence
kangha	One of the five Ks: comb, to keep kesh tidy
karah prashad/prasad	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
kesh/kes	One of the Five Ks: uncut hair; to cut hair is to tamper with God's creation
<b>Khalsa</b>	'Pure Ones': 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
kirpan	One of the five Ks: sword or dagger (sometimes a miniature symbol of one) signifying courage in defence of right

kirtan	Corporate hymn singing—for Sikhs the appropriate response to God is praise
<b>langar</b>	The kitchen attached to every Gurdwara, in which all, no matter what creed or caste, may eat together. Thus the langar is a great symbol for equality
martyr/martyred	To die for one's beliefs.
Mul Mantra	The opening lines of the <i>Guru Granth Sahib</i> , and containing the essence of the Sikh understanding of God
Muslim	A follower of Islam
nam simran	The practice of contemplating God
panj kakka	The Five K's; five emblems which Khalsa Sikhs were commanded to wear by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699
<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 they would give their lives for him
panth	'Way'—denotes the whole Sikh community
Punjab	The Sikh homeland in northern India.
ragis	Musicians who usually play in the gurdwara
<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>ritual</b>	A solemn or religious ceremony involving a series of actions carried out in a set order
Sat Nam	'True Name'—one of the names of God. Others include Waheguru (Wonderful Teacher), Sat Guru (True Teacher), and Akal Purakh (Timeless One)
<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>Sikh</b>	A follower of the Sikh religion
<b>social and religious (socio-political) background</b>	The social and religious factors which led to the emergence of Sikhism
<b>soul</b>	The immaterial and spiritual part of a human being, believed by Sikhs to be immortal
<b>Ten Gurus</b>	The ten human leaders of Sikhism until Guru Gobind Singh conferred guruship on the scripture in 1708
<b>Vaisakhi</b>	Sikh festival coinciding with New Year
Waheguru/Vahiguru	'True Name'—one of the names of God. Others include Sat Nam (True Name), Sat Guru (True Teacher), and Akal Purakh (Timeless One)
<b>worship</b>	A form of religious practice with its set of beliefs and rituals

## RS1/2 WR: Western Religions (AS)

### SECTION A: Introduction to Islam

<b>akhirah</b>	The term means 'last things' and includes Islamic beliefs in the Day of Judgement and life after death
<b>Allah</b>	The Islamic name for God in the Arabic language. Used in preference to the word God, this Arabic term is singular, has no plural, nor is it associated with masculine, feminine or neuter characteristics.
<b>Asharites</b>	The name given to followers of the theologian al-Ashari (873-935) and has developed into an influential school of theology that is widespread in the Islamic West. Broadly speaking, Asharism helped integrate philosophy with religious belief
<b>ayah (pl. ayat)</b>	Literally meaning 'sign', it is often translated as 'verse'. It refers to the verses of the Qur'an which are 'signs' of God's power.
<b>arranged marriage</b>	Marriages are frequently arranged by the parents of the young people who try to find good compatible partners for their children. It is not Islamic for parents to force their children into marriage with someone that the son or daughter does not like.
<b>Day of Judgement</b>	See <i>akhirah</i>
<b>divorce</b>	The ending of a marriage. Islam does not force couples to live together if the marriage has broken down. Divorce is considered the most detestable act allowed by Allah.
<b>Five Pillars</b>	The fundamental tenets of Islamic belief and practice, and so the 'supports' of the religion. The shahadah is the most essential if one is to be a Muslim, whereas the other four (salah, zakat, sawm, hajj) should be observed in order to be a good Muslim.
<b>hadith</b>	Meaning 'speech' or 'report' and more specifically a reference to the actions and sayings of Muhammad that have been recounted by those who knew the Prophet.
<b>hajj</b>	'The greater pilgrimage', which is one of the Five Pillars and involves a series of rites performed at Makkah and the surrounding area every year.
<b>halal</b>	Any action or thing which is permitted or lawful
<b>haram</b>	Anything unlawful or not permitted
<b>hijrah / hegira</b>	'The migration', referring to the emigration of Muhammad from Makkah to Madinah in 622 CE to escape persecution
<b>Id-ul-Adha</b>	Celebration of the sacrifice, commemorating the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Isma'il for Allah. Also known as Id-ul-Kabir (the Greater Id) and Qurban Bayram (feast of sacrifice; Turkish)

<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. Also known as Id-ul-Saghir (the Lesser Id) and Sheker Bayram (sugar feast; Turkish)
<b>Islam</b>	Peace attained through willing obedience to Allah’s divine guidance
<b>jihad</b>	Personal individual striving against evil in the way of Allah; it can also be collective defence of the Muslim community_
<b>life cycle rituals</b>	In religious terms the various rituals associated with different stages in a person’s life. For example in Islam this would include birth, marriage and death
<b>Madinah / Medina</b>	Full name ‘Madinat an-Nabi’ (‘The City of the Prophet’) which was known as ‘Yathrib’ before the hijrah. It became the first Islamic city-state. Most who make a pilgrimage to Makkah also visit Madinah as it contains the tomb of the Prophet and is the second holiest city for Muslims.
<b>Makkah / Mecca</b>	This city has been a spiritual centre for Arabs for thousands of years. It contains the Ka’bah towards which Muslims all over the world pray. Muhammad was born here and it is the holiest city in Islam.
<b>Mosque</b>	Masjid—place of prostration; Muslim place of worship
<b>Muhammad</b>	‘Praised’; name of the final Prophet
<b>Muslim</b>	One who claims to have accepted Islam by professing the shahadah
<b>Mu’tazilites</b>	From the Arabic word ‘a’tazala’ (‘to remove oneself’, ‘to withdraw’). An influential school of thought, especially during the 9th century, that emphasised the reason of Greek philosophy, although they were often attacked as heretical
<b>Night of Power</b>	Laylat-ul-Qadr, when the first revelation of the <u>Qur’an</u> was made to the Prophet Muhammad during the month of Ramadan
<b>al-Qad’r</b>	Meaning ‘power’, ‘will’, or ‘capacity’. A group known as the Qadariyyah believed that Man has free will. However, the term ‘qad’r’ is also used to refer to the will of God and is also associated with the belief that God wills everything (predestination).
<b>Qur’an / Koran</b>	Meaning ‘reading’ or ‘recitation’. It is the holy book of Islam and was revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad. These revelations began in the year 610 and continued sporadically for the rest of Muhammad’s life. As the word of God it is the primary source of authority in Islam.
<b>revealed/revelations</b>	Message given by Allah through a prophet or messenger

<b>risalah</b>	Meaning 'message' and referring to the belief that God sent 'messengers' ( <i>'rusul'</i> ) to bring a new religion or revelation. The Qur'an states that all races have been sent a messenger. For Muslims, Muhammad is the 'Seal of the Prophets'; the final messenger bringing the complete word of God.
<b>role model</b>	A person who sets an example or standard to which others can aspire
<b>salah</b>	One of the Five Pillars. The five daily ritual prayers consisting of a series of movements and recitations and, therefore, more of an act of worship.
<b>sawm</b>	One of the Five Pillars. The fasting during the month of Ramadan from dawn till sunset. There are also many other optional fasting days in the Islamic calendar.
<b>shahadah</b>	Meaning 'to witness', 'to testify'. It is the first and most important of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is the essential creed of Islam and its utterance and belief is a requirement to be a Muslim.
<b>shari'a / shariah</b>	Meaning 'to introduce' or 'to prescribe'. It is the law for Islamic societies and is founded mainly upon the Qur'an and the hadith. An Islamic state is not considered truly Islamic if it does not abide by shari'a.
Shi'ah / Shi'a	Meaning 'faction' or 'party'. A branch of Islam comprising around 10 percent of the Muslim population. Shi'ites (pl.) are themselves divided into different groups, the largest being the 'Twelvers' in, mainly, Iran. The reasons for the separation from the Sunni majority are historical and political and have their central roots in the debate over the legitimacy of the Fourth Caliph Ali.
shirk	Meaning 'association'. God is perceived as One and alone and, therefore, it is seen as a sin (the only sin God cannot forgive) to associate anything other with God, for example the belief and worship of other gods. It is also a revolt against God. Therefore, pagans and also atheists are considered to have committed the sin of shirk.
Sufi	The 'mystical' element of Islam. Sufism lays emphasis on the more ascetic element of religious practice, including, in many cases, the practice of poverty, solitude, silence and abstinence. Often, poetry, music and dancing are techniques used to achieve a mystical state; a 'union' with God.
<b>sunna / sunnah</b>	Meaning 'custom'. Generally a term referring to the customs and traditions of a nation, but more specifically sunna refers to the customs of the Muslim people based upon Muhammad's example. The hadith, therefore, are an important source for the sunna.
Sunni	The largest group of Muslims (around 85 percent) and sometimes referred to as the 'orthodox' as they claim to follow the correct sunna of Muhammad.

surah	Meaning 'row', and a reference to the chapters in the Qur'an, of which there are 114.
<b>tawhid</b> / tauhid	Meaning 'unity' or 'oneness'. The central belief in the unity of God. Although all Muslims accept this belief (it is essential to salvation), there are differences of opinion as to what is meant by 'unity' and, therefore, what kind of God is being referred to.
<b>ummah</b>	References to a people or a community. More specifically the people or 'nation' of Muslims. As such, members of the umma are not defined by ethnic or political categories but by their belief.
<b>zakah</b> / zakat	Meaning 'purification' and a reference to the giving up of part of one's wealth to the poor and needy. It is one of the Five Pillars and, in this respect, is obligatory.

## SECTION B: Introduction to Judaism

<b>Abraham</b>	Father of the Jewish people, with whom God made a covenant involving circumcision, and to whom God promised the land
<b>authenticity</b>	Reliability, trustworthiness, genuineness
<b>authority</b>	Power, jurisdiction, right
<b>bar mitzvah</b>	‘Son of commandment’; a boy’s coming of age at 13 years old, usually marked by a synagogue ceremony and family celebration
<b>bat mizvah</b>	‘Daughter of commandment’. Reform Jewish practice. Like bar mitzvah but for girls from 12 years old. Practices vary in different communities.
biblical	Relating to the Jewish Bible, see <i>Tanak</i>
<b>chosen people</b>	The idea that the Jews are chosen to play a special role in God’s plan. It is not that they are better than other people: they are simply called to a different task—to be a holy nation, a nation set apart.
<b>circumcision</b>	Religious rite of Brit Milah, performed by a qualified mohel on all Jewish boys, usually on the eighth day after birth
codes	Due to the sheer size and complexity of the Talmud, it was ‘codified’ to make it more accessible. These codes include the various halachoth (‘laws’) of the Geonim (Jewish scholars), and the Mishneh Torah of Maimonides amongst others.
<b>covenant</b>	An agreement or contract
Day of Atonement	Known as <i>Yom Kippur</i> . The most solemn day in the Jewish year. A time of fasting and penitence.
Days of Joy	The joyous festivals of Hanukkah, Purim, Rosh Hodesh, Tu B’shvat, 15 Av, and Independence Day.
divine	Relating to God
<b>divorce</b>	Jewish divorce is a formal and final undoing of marriage. In Jewish teaching, he who divorces his wife is hated by God.
eruv	Meaning a ‘mixture’ of public and private property. The Jewish prohibition against work on the Sabbath includes, for example, not being allowed to transport goods from a public to a private domain (and vice versa). An ‘eruv’ is the boundary of a ‘neutral’ domain that allows Jews to ‘transport goods’ (including pushing prams etc.) on the Sabbath within that boundary.
ethical monotheism	The belief that there is not only one God, but that God is a moral agent. He provides a moral law (commandments) for which believers are obliged to follow.

<b>exodus</b> Gemara	The 'going out' or escape from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses Meaning 'completion'. Rabbinic discussions of the Mishnah. It is a careful examination of the Mishnah sentence by sentence and so can be seen as an extension and elaboration of the Mishnah and, therefore, a component of the Talmud.
<b>Jew</b>	Person who is born of a Jewish mother or who has been converted to Judaism
<b>Judaism</b>	Religion of the Jewish people
kapparat	'Atonements'. Symbolic preparation before Yom Kippur, observed only by the very Orthodox. Based on the ancient Temple ritual of driving a goat out of Jerusalem and symbolises the expulsion of sins (hence 'scapegoat')
<b>kashrut</b>	The laws governing the kinds of food Jews can eat. The roots of these laws are to be found in the Bible, most can be found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.
Kol Nidrei	'All vows'; prayer recited on the evening of Yom Kippur
kosher	'Fit' or 'right' to eat. Food that conforms to the laws of kashrut.
<b>law</b>	
<b>life cycle rituals</b>	In religious terms, the various rituals associated with different stages in a person's life. For example, in Judaism this would include birth, naming, circumcision, bar and bat mitzvah, marriage and death.
liturgy	Prescribed form of public worship
<b>marriage</b>	In Judaism, the lifelong union of one man with one woman
megillah (pl. megillot)	Meaning 'scroll', although more commonly a reference to the Book of Esther which is read from a scroll (not a book, or codex) during the festival of Purim. Four other books of the Bible are also referred to as scrolls: Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, and Ecclesiastes.
midrash (pl. midrashim)	Meaning 'to search' or 'to root out' and is a reference to the <i>method</i> of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible as opposed to an actual text in itself.
Mishnah	Both a method and a text. The Mishnah is a collection of Oral Laws over a period of some 400 years and collated together under six main Orders. (Sedarim)
<b>mitzvah (pl. mitzvot)</b>	'Obligation' or 'commandment' and, therefore, the central obligations laid upon the Jews in Exodus.
<b>monotheism</b>	Belief that there is only one God
<b>Moses</b>	Jewish leader and law giver
Nashim	Women'. An Order of the Mishnah

New Year	Known as <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> . The start of ten days of penitence culminating with Yom Kippur
Nezikin	'Damages'. An Order of the Mishnah
oral Torah	
<b>Orthodox</b>	Jews who maintain traditional Jewish beliefs and practices, based on the Torah and the Talmud
non-Orthodox	Jews who do not regard all Jewish traditional beliefs and practices as valid or necessary today, e.g. reform and liberal Jews
penitence	Regret or apology for sins
Pentateuch	The Greek term for the first five books of the Bible (the Torah)
<b>Pesach</b>	'Passover'; Spring festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt; one of the three biblical pilgrim festivals
Pilgrim Festivals	Three festivals by which Jews originally used to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice and pray to God. These are: <i>Pesach</i> (or Passover; feast of unleavened bread), <i>Shavuot</i> (feast of weeks), and <i>Sukkot</i> (feast of booths).
Promised Land	Land of Israel, promised to Abraham and his descendants according to the Book of Genesis
rabbi	A teacher of Jewish belief and practice, usually spiritual leader of a Jewish community
Rabbinic Judaism	A reference to the period following the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 CE when Judaism was replaced by the synagogue system with authority resting with the rabbis instead of the priests
<b>Reform</b>	Jews who question some Orthodox beliefs and traditions and follow a more liberal, modern form of Judaism
responsa	Explanations and decisions of Jewish law and practice. For example, twelve collections of gaonic responsa survive and responsa are still written today that discuss contemporary issues such as, for example, the permission to have a heart transplant.
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	'Head of the year'; Jewish New Year festival
sanctification of history	The belief that events in history are 'sacred' due to the acts of God who works through history. History is 'sanctified' through ritual observance etc. and acts as a reminder of God's power.
sedarim	'Orders' of the Mishnah, of which there are six: Seeds, Seasons, Women, Damages, Holy Things, and Purities.
selihot	Penitential prayers composed by the Ashkenazim (Jews of Eastern European origin)

<b>Shabbat / Sabbath</b>	Seventh day of Jewish week; day of rest. It is a reminder of the seventh day that God rested after the creation of the heaven and the earth and, therefore, Jews are obliged to rest on this day too.
<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>synagogue</b>	A Jewish congregation; a place where Jews gather for prayer, study or assembly
<b>Talmud</b>	Mishnah and Gemara combined. There are two main Talmuds, the Palestinian (compiled in the late fifth century) and the Babylonian (compiled in the early sixth century)
<b>Tanak</b>	Also spelt 'Tenakh'. An abbreviation of the first letters of three Hebrew words that designate the sections of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Law), Nevi'im (prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings). The Tanak, therefore, is the Hebrew Bible.
<b>Torah</b>	Meaning 'Instruction' or 'Teaching'. In a limited sense it can mean only the first five books of the Bible. However, it can also mean the whole of Jewish teaching.
<b>Yom Kippur</b>	Day of Atonement; fast day occurring on the 10 <sup>th</sup> day after Rosh Hashanah; a solemn day of prayer and repentance

## NOTES

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