WJEC A Level 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.
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<th><strong>RS3 CS: Studies in Religion in Contemporary Society (A2)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anglicanism</strong> A term used to differentiate the ‘English’ Church from Roman Catholicism after the Act of Supremacy in 1534. Now the Anglican Church is a world-wide communion.</td>
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<td><strong>Berger</strong> Born 1929. American sociologist and theologian most famous for his work <em>The Social Construction of Reality</em>, and for wrongly predicting total secularisation.</td>
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<td><strong>blasphemy</strong> From the Greek ‘speaking evil’. Speaking disrespectfully about God, or insulting any item of orthodox religious belief.</td>
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<td><strong>capitalism</strong> Economic system driven by the motivation for profit, and requiring private investment to provide the means of production, distribution and exchange.</td>
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<td><strong>Church of England</strong> The officially established Church in England, a member of the Anglican Communion.</td>
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<td><strong>civil partnership ceremonies</strong> Granted under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 to give same-sex couples rights and responsibilities identical to civil marriage. Civil Partners are entitled to the same property rights as married opposite-sex couples, the same exemption as married couples on inheritance tax, social security and pension benefits, and also the ability to get parental responsibility for a partner's children, as well as responsibility for reasonable maintenance of one's partner and their children, tenancy rights, life insurance recognition, next-of-kin rights in hospitals, etc. There is a formal process for dissolving partnerships akin to divorce. No religious rituals or readings are permitted in Civil Partnership Ceremonies, and they may not take place in a religious building.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>community cohesion</strong> See <em>social cohesion</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>conscience</strong> A sense of morality which governs a person’s thoughts and actions. A person may have a strong conscience or a weak one.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>defender of the faith</strong> (In Latin <em>fidei defensor</em>). The title given to the British Monarch by the British Parliament since 1544 reflecting the fact that with this position comes the title Supreme Governor of the Church of England (i.e. superior to the Archbishop of Canterbury).</td>
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<td><strong>developmental theory</strong> Any theory which assumes that the individual (or societies) pass through stages of development (such as the development of religious belief, cognitive ability or moral reasoning).</td>
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### Durkheim
Émile Durkheim (1858-1917) was a French sociologist and considered as one of the founding fathers of sociology. He was not interested in whether the claims of religion were true or not, but in how religions expressed the values of society. He understood the nature of religion as the inevitable expression of society’s values, and considered it crucial for social cohesion.

### Eliade
Mircea Eliade (1907–1986) was a Romanian historian of religion, philosopher, and professor at the University of Chicago. He was a leading interpreter of religious experience, who established theories in religious studies that persist to this day. He argued that experiences of the sacred form the basis of religion, splitting the human experience of reality into sacred and profane space and time.

### establishment
The recognition by law of the supremacy of a church (i.e. in England, the Church of England, which is seen as the ‘official’ religion).

### ethnography
The study of people in terms of their ethnic groups.

### faith communities
A term used to describe people who practice religions. (Sometimes considered an unhelpful term, as not all religious traditions emphasise ‘faith’)

### Formalist
Formalists emphasise the aesthetic unities and disunities in a given film. Formalists also tend to view the multiple elements of film production, and the effects, emotional and intellectual, of those individual elements.

### Fowler, James
Professor of Theology at Emory University and author of *Stages of Faith* (1981), which argued that the individual passes through six stages of the development of faith through their lifetime.

### free speech
Recognised as a human right under article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the right to express and disseminate opinions. In Islam this was established in the 7th Century under Caliph Umar. Freedom of Speech is sometimes curtailed by laws when it is perceived to come into conflict with other values.

### functional/functionalist
Accounts of religion which focus on how it ‘functions’ in society, or in the life of an individual i.e. what benefits it brings.

### Goldman, Ronald
Author of *Readiness for Religion* (1965) and *Religious Thinking from Childhood to Adolescence* (1964)

### Hardy, Sir Alister
Sir Alister Clavering Hardy (1896-1985) was an Oxford-educated marine biologist. He founded the Religious Experience Research Centre in 1969, after retiring as a professor of zoology at Oxford.

### healthy-mindedness
The healthy-minded are described in William James’s *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902) as having a naturally positive outlook on life. They are those who are psychologically stable, see life as basically good and God as benign.
interfaith dialogue

Sometimes understood as the attempt to find common ground between the religions, but technically simply discussion between those who belong to different religions.

Islamophobia

Stereotyping or prejudice against Muslims or Islam. Literally ‘fear’ of Islam.

Leavisite

One who follows the central doctrines of the literary critic, FR Leavis, applying his approaches to European literature to the medium of film. In this sense it is the relationship between the form/composition of the film and the moral interest of the filmmaker reflecting in turn the relationship between art and life.

Lords Spiritual

The Lords Spiritual of the United Kingdom, also called Spiritual Peers, are the 26 clergy of the established Church of England who serve in the House of Lords along with the Lords Temporal. The established Church of Scotland is not represented by spiritual peers. The Anglican Churches in Wales and Northern Ireland are no longer established churches and are therefore not represented either.

Marx

Karl Marx (1818-1883): German philosopher and political theorist who argued that belief in religion was a comfort to people that prevented them from taking action to overcome oppression.

Maslow


metaphysical

To do with the first principles of nature, being, or thought. Often the word indicates something transcendent – above and beyond the world.

Middle East

In the context of the specification the term ‘Middle East’ refers primarily to Israel/Palestine, but also to other areas of conflict such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

national identity

The notion that a set of characteristics and values are held in common by people of the same nation.

neurosis

A mental disturbance created by unconscious conflict.

numinous

Suffused with the divine.

Otto


parapsychology

The study of means by which the mind can gain information super-normally (such as by clairvoyance, telepathy etc).

peak experience

A term used by Abraham Maslow to describe blissful experiences in which the self is transcended. Many religious people report such experiences.
personality

The distinctive psychological and emotional features of a person

Piagetian

Pertaining to Jean Piaget, and his stage theory of cognitive development

plurality

Denotes more than one religion or culture within a community or nation

profane

A term used by Emile Durkheim to refer to the secular realm.

psychoanalysis

The process of therapy which traces neuroses to hidden features of the unconscious mind. Freud’s therapy is psychoanalytic

Rankin, Marianne

Chair of the Alister Hardy Society and author of books on religious experiences

readiness for religion

A stage theory concept of Ronald Goldman’s which claims that younger children cannot understand religious language as they are not ‘ready’ for it, and that education can help to nurture this ‘readiness’

realist

In film, one who depicts subjects as they appear in everyday life, without embellishment or interpretation. Literally making films that show life in its ‘real/true’ form.

reductive

An adjective which describes a theory which ‘explains’ a phenomenon in terms of a discourse not directly related to that phenomenon. For example, the phenomenon of belief in God could be explained theologically (non-reductive) or psychologically (reductive).

religious

- freedom

A situation in which it is possible to believe and practise any religion without interference from the State. Nation States operate policies of greater or lesser religious freedom. It is never an absolute.

- heritage

Cultures, and sometimes nations, are often understood to have a religious heritage. The term is vague and can reflect anything from strong contemporary adherence to nominal adherence, and the persistence of institutions with religious assumptions in their constitutions. In both cases, the presence of some level of religious commitment is at least in part a consequence of a particular religion’s dominance in the past. The term is a rhetorical one which can be used in many different ways.

sacred

Term used by writers such as Mircea Eliade and Emile Durkheim (in different ways) to denote the holy

sacred canopy

Term used by Peter Berger to describe the way in which religion preserves social order

satire

Satire involves ridiculing something, often with the use of irony. To provide a critique which to some would seem humorous.
self-actualization
A term used by Abraham Maslow to denote the process of the transcendence of self to be found in many religious traditions and psychological theories.

semiotics
This area considers the relationship between signs and their social meanings, 'signs' being words, a visual image, a sound or any components of the 'world within the frame.' Thus film is an interconnected series of signifying systems, unlike the unitary signifying system of writing.

Sharpe

sick soul
The sick-souled are described in William James’s *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902) as having a naturally negative outlook on life. They tend towards depression and seeing the world as evil.

six stages of faith
Proposed by James Fowler, a six-staged theory of the way faith develops in the individual through his/her lifetime.

Smart, Ninian

social cohesion
Also termed community cohesion, this has become a governmental aspiration since race riots in 2001 in Bradford and Burnley. It is normally characterised by tolerance and respect for other people and positive interactions between individuals and communities. It is also about the extent of social inclusion or integration of people into the mainstream institutions of civil society. It includes people’s sense of belonging to their nation and the strength of shared experiences, identities and values between those from different backgrounds. It also refers to the level of fairness in access to opportunities or material circumstances, such as income, health or quality of life.

sociology
The study of society.

State
A country separated from others by the jurisdiction of its government.

stereotyping
To characterise or categorise (a person, ethnic group, members of a religion, members of any particular group) too simplistically or negatively.

theological
Pertaining to the discipline of Theology, which is often understood as ‘faith seeking understanding,’ or ‘faith thinking’.

truth claims
The core claims made by religions such as God(s) exists, the world was created, liberation is possible, there is life after death, etc.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

A declaration adopted by the United Nations in 1948 consisting of 30 ‘articles’ comprised of statements of human rights, which inform the laws of most countries and are used as part of international pressure when a country is seen to be flouting these rights. The Declaration has its critics, amongst which are those who see it as having basis in a Judeo-Christian worldview.

Weber

Max Weber (1864-1920) was a sociologist and political economist who argued that the rise of Protestantism coincided with the rise of capitalism because the two notions supported each other.

worship

The expression of devotion or praise to God(s), saints, enlightened beings etc. In normal usage worship refers to those activities directed towards a divine being. However since the word implies anything ‘worthy’, Buddhists sometimes use it to refer to devotions paid to the image of the Buddha, who is seen as an example rather than as a deity in many forms of Buddhism.

Zionism

The belief that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews

- religious

The belief that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews because God decreed it.

- secular

The belief that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews as their nation from which they have been in exile for historical reasons, and which provides an essential refuge from worldwide anti-semitism.
### RS3 ETH: Studies in Religion and Ethics (A2)

**a posteriori** On the basis of experience. A concept used by Emmanuel Kant (see below) to describe unacceptable approaches to morality or ethics that were dependent on experience in determining what was ethical and what was not. Such approaches would inevitably be relativistic and, as such, for Kant morally unacceptable. (See also *synthetic* below)

**a priori** Without, independent of or prior to experience. Kant claimed that the only valid moral principles were by their nature *a priori* since they were by definition moral duties or obligations, and as such were absolute in their demands. (See also *analytical* below)

**abortion** A medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy, normally before the foetus can survive independently.

**absolutism** An ethical position which is based on principles to which there can be no exception under any circumstances.

**analytical** Based upon detailed examination of the logic of a principle, argument or statement. Kant argued that moral statements had to be *a priori* (see above) analytical statements, based on logic and not on experience.

**Anscombe, Elizabeth** (1919-2001): a philosopher who coined the term ‘consequentialism’ and had a significant influence on modern virtue ethics, arguing against ethics based on obligation and duty and in favour of ethics based on character, virtue and flourishing.

**Aquinas** 13th Century Dominican priest, commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Chiefly responsible for developing the ethical theory of Natural Law.

**Aristotle** A Greek philosopher (384-322 BCE), who had an enormous influence on the history of thought, and who developed *virtue ethics* (see below).

**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. Developed the earliest formulation of the Just War theory.

**bioethics** The area of ethics concerned with making moral judgements about the use (or abuse) of biological organisms, biological experiment and the development of medical treatments and procedures.

**Buddhist** Either a person who follows the religion of the Buddha or as applied to the principles and ethics derived from the Buddha’s teaching.
| **cardinal virtues** | Human moral qualities defined by Aquinas, drawing on previous Christian philosophical reflection by Augustine and others, defined as prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude, usually set alongside the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity (see I Corinthians 13:13) |
| **Categorical Imperative** | An ethical principle, developed by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), which sought to define universal ethical obligations (or ‘oughts’) without reference to the existence of a transcendent being and based only on human reason |
| **civil conflicts** | Violent hostility and tension between opposing groups within a society or state, often involving armed struggle (see conflict below) |
| **cloning** | Genetic manipulation involving the transfer of genetic material from one organism to cells of another organism in order to produce an exact replica of the original organism |
| **conflict** | A state of severe disagreement, opposition or hostility between individuals, groups or states which can be expressed in terms of extreme verbal or violent exchanges but often leads to armed confrontation or war |
| **conscience** | An inner personal conviction that determines a particular course of ethical behaviour |
| **consequentialist** | Ethical theories based on the outcome of an action or actions rather than on the inherent morality of the action or actions |
| **conservative evangelical** | An understanding of Christianity which is based on a traditional interpretation of the key aspects of Christian belief, including the absolute centrality of the Bible (which may also include a literal approach to Biblical text), the necessity for conversion, the centrality of the cross of Christ as a means of salvation and the obligation of evangelism. Usually this embraces a traditional view of Christian ethics |
| **conventional weapons** | Weapons used traditionally in warfare but not including nuclear (and occasionally biological) weapons |
| **deontological** | An ethical principle which maintains that an act is right or wrong in itself – irrespective of the consequences of the act – and that, therefore, carries a duty or obligation of obedience |
| **discrimination** | Behaviour towards a person or group on the basis of their gender, sexual orientation, racial group, ethnic origin or religion (see positive discrimination) |
| **doctrine** | A religion's body of teaching on matters of faith and belief |
| **duty** | A moral obligation, derived from a particular religious belief or ethical law or theory, to act in a certain way both in relation to oneself and to others. Usually 'duty' is understood to be both absolute (see absolutism above) and universal (i.e. applicable to everyone at all times) |
economic purposes

Actions and policies by international organisations, states or communal governments, or national and transnational companies aimed at achieving certain goals in relation to financial and commercial processes. Such policies and actions inevitably raise important ethical questions in areas such as equality, fairness and discrimination.

embryo

The earliest stages of the unborn human organism, normally within the uterus, that results from conception. The term is normally applied to such cellular organisms up to eight weeks after conception. Thereafter, they are called a foetus (see below).

emotivist ethics

An ethical theory which is based on the assumption that people primarily make ethical decisions on the basis of feeling and emotion rather than principles and rational argument.

empirical

An understanding of reality based on tested evidence, normally, gathered through scientific experiment and observation, often seen to be in conflict with a religious (and, perhaps, more metaphysical) understanding of reality. This approach derives largely from the eighteenth century European Enlightenment.

ensoulment

A term traditionally used in relation to the ethical teaching of Augustine and Aquinas, for example, to describe the process by which an embryo comes to possess a soul, and therefore may be thought to have greater moral significance. The term is usually, deployed in discussions about whether or not abortion (see above) is ethically permitted.

end in itself

An ethical or moral action which is justified because it is regarded as intrinsically good, according to a particular ethical or religious principle, as opposed to an action which may be regarded as good because of the consequences which may result from that action.

ethical

An adjective based on ‘ethics’ see below (eg an ethical theory)

- conditions

Situations, behaviours or contexts derived from ethical principles that may have a bearing on moral actions or decisions.

- decision-making

The process of determining the moral principles or actions that derive from either religious belief or ethical theory.

- theories

A range of structured philosophical approaches (e.g. natural law or utilitarianism) that attempt to set out a basis for ethical principles or actions.

ethicist

A person who is engaged in study and writing concerning ethics.

ethics

The study of principles and values on the basis of which human beings make decisions about the way they behave.
euthanasia

Literally ‘a good death’, it describes a medical procedure by which either a person terminates his or her own life because of extreme pain or suffering or the life of another person is either allowed to come to an end or is brought to an end, with legal consent, and with the assistance of others, because of a critical medical condition. Any form of euthanasia is illegal in most countries at the present time

- voluntary
  Euthanasia with the full and conscious desire and consent of the person whose life is to be terminated

- involuntary
  Euthanasia by which the life of the person concerned is brought to an end while the person himself or herself is unconscious, but with their prior written and legal desire and consent

- non-voluntary
  Euthanasia which brings to an end, for reasons of mercy and compassion, the life of a person who, either because of mental incapacity or of their being in a ‘permanent vegetative state’, cannot make a decision for themselves but who, in the judgement of family and medical experts, would have made a decision in favour of euthanasia had they been in a position to do so

experiential

Based on experience. For example, ethical decision-making (see above) based on a person’s experience rather than solely on religious principle or ethical theory

- corroboration
  Confirmation, derived from experience, of the validity (see below) of an ethical action and/or theory

fairness

A condition in which people are treated in an equal and unbiased way

feminist approaches

In the context of ethics, ways of developing and defining ethical principles and actions—usually by female ethicists, philosophers or theologians—that reflect the greater attention that has been given to the perspectives and insights of women, especially during the latter half of the twentieth century. One example of such an approach is the ethics of care which emphasizes the importance of human relationships rather than individual justice

foetus

The unborn baby within the womb or uterus. The term is normally applied from eight weeks after conception to birth. (See also embryo above)

Gandhianism

Religious, spiritual, moral and ethical teaching based upon the work and example of Gandhi (1869-1948)—one of the key leaders of the campaign for Indian independence—and derived mainly from Hinduism (but also with strong Christian influences). At the heart of Gandhianism is an ethic of non-violence, pacifism, and civil disobedience in the face of conflict. Gandhi was an inspiration to other campaigners such as Martin Luther King Jnr in the civil rights movement in the USA
**genetic**
An adjective that refers to the activities of genes, the key cellular structures that determine the biological and other inherited characteristics of living organisms. [Genetics is the term used to describe the study of such phenomena].

- **ethics**
The study of moral principles which have emerged from and relate to genetics, and which raise complex moral challenges.

- **manipulation**
Scientific techniques that re-order, exchange and restructure genetic materials, either within a particular organism or between similar or dissimilar organisms, for scientific, medical or other purposes. The key ethical question is whether such techniques can ever be morally justified.

**goodness**
A human quality which, for many ethicists (such as Aquinas and Kant), is the framework and goal of ethical and moral behaviour. The moral opposite of 'goodness' is 'evil'.

**highest good**
The term used by Kant and others to describe the ultimate goal of human life. For Kant, this *summum bonum* (highest good) could not be achieved within any human life-time, and therefore implies the existence of God and an after-life in and through which this ultimate goal may be achieved.

**historical approach**
An approach to ethics that seeks to bring wisdom and insight from past events, thought and action to bear, in decisive ways, on contemporary ethical thinking and decision-making.

**Holy War (jihad)**
Commonly understood to refer to an Islamic concept of armed struggle or war in defence of Islam or Islamic territory; jihad ('struggle') more accurately refers to the spiritual struggle against evil which should characterise the daily life of every Muslim, and which may involve collective action against injustice, violence, etc.

**human duty**
*(see duty above)*

**human intervention**
Actions by human beings, often in a medical context, which set out to change the course of what otherwise might be natural, possibly, catastrophic consequences. The ethical questions focus on the degree to which such actions can be morally justified within different contexts.

**human reason**
A characteristic regarded as being unique to human beings which enables them to apply intellectual, rational thought to decisions about their own behaviour and that of others. Philosophers such as Aquinas and Kant saw human reason as the fundamental faculty by which human beings make responsible ethical decisions.

**human rights**
The entitlement of human beings to be treated with equality, justice and respect, defined most fully in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

**Hypothetical Imperative**
The opposite of Categorical Imperative in Kant’s moral theory (see above) which posits conditional rather than absolute ethical principles ('If I want to achieve this ethical consequence then I must act in this way').
intellectual virtues

The desirable human characteristics which, according to Aristotle (see above) and his more modern followers (e.g. Anscombe or McIntyre – see glossary entry), are developed through the trained deployment of rational thought. Examples of such virtues include intelligence and prudence. He set these alongside moral virtues (see below), among which he included courage and liberality.

intuitive judgements

Moral decisions made on the basis of instinctive and subjective, rather than external and objective, human responses.

jus ad bellum

The ethical conditions for going to war as set out within the Just War theory. The seven conditions are: just authority, just cause, just intention, proportionality, last resort, reasonable chance of success, and comparative justice.

jus in bello

The ethical conditions for engagement in warfare developed in parallel with jus ad bellum above. Traditionally these are: proportionality (i.e. using minimal force) and discrimination (i.e. making every effort to avoid civilian, non-combative victims).

Just War

A Christian concept, developed originally by Augustine and Aquinas (see above) and supplemented by Suarez and de Vitoria in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which seeks to set out a number of conditions for going to war and for conduct in war. (See jus ad bellum and jus in bello above).

justice

A condition in which people are treated with equality and fairness, both generally and before the law.

Kant

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), a German philosopher who proposed universal ethical principles based on the concept of the categorical imperative or universal law of duty.

Kingdom of Ends

Refers to one formulation of Kant’s Categorical Imperative which states that a person should act ‘as if you were through your maxim a law-making member of a kingdom of ends’. In other words, human ethical behaviour must be determined not only by attitudes and actions of respect towards persons as individuals but also by attitudes and actions of respect towards all persons in relationship within society. I cannot merely ask ‘Can I behave like this?’ I have rather to ask, ‘Is this acceptable behaviour for everyone within the state or community?’

liberal approaches

Radical perspectives on ethics which derive from new theological and philosophical thinking mainly developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and which challenge many traditional and conservative ethical viewpoints (e.g. Situation Ethics – see below).

Logical Positivism

A philosophical position which states that no argument or statement can be valid unless it can be shown to be true by logic or experimental data and that any argument or statement which cannot be proved in this way is, simply, meaningless.
MacIntyre, Alasdair  A philosopher who is the author of *A Short History of Ethics*, a history of moral philosophy ‘from the Homeric Age to the Twentieth Century’ and who made an important contribution to the revival of virtue ethics, originated by Aristotle and others (see below) which emphasises that ethical behaviour should be determined by asking ‘What kind of persons should we be?’ rather than ‘What kind of actions should we undertake?’

maxim  A universal ethical principle developed within the framework of Kant’s Categorical Imperative

mean, doctrine of the mean  A term used in Aristotelian ethics to define moral virtues as those that lie between the vice of deficiency and the vice of excess. For example, courage is a moral virtue to be desired and developed. It is the mean between the deficiency of cowardice and the excess of rash behaviour or recklessness. McIntyre criticised the doctrine as being of varying usefulness and rather abstract and non-practical

meaningless  A statement which is nonsense (ie does not have any rational sense)

medical dilemmas  Ethical questions or challenges raised by treatments and techniques that are open to doctors and other specialist staff e.g. should abortion be made universally available, when and to whom; how is the choice made between spending a large sum of money on very advanced treatment that might extend or save the life of one person and spending the same sum of money on improving the health and life expectancy of a number of people?

medical ethics  Study of and writing or communication about the ethical issues raised in the various fields of medicine, especially questions raised by the rapid development of medical and surgical treatments in recent decades

moral  Normally regarded as having a similar meaning to ‘ethics’ i.e. the study of the philosophical and/or theological principles by which ethical decisions are made and on the basis of which human beings engage in ethical action. Some distinguish between ‘moral’ as relating primarily to the philosophical study of such principles and precepts and ‘ethics’ as relating primarily to the ways in which such principles and precepts are acted out in decision-making and action

- action  Human behaviour which arises from, is based upon and reflects developed moral (or ethical) principles

- authority  The foundation upon which moral thought or ethical principles are based e.g. divine revelation; the Bible or the Qur’an; religious leaders; approved and accepted ethical principles or theories

- character  The sum of those features of the personalities of individual human beings that have developed as a result of the practice of virtues and actions that derive from the application of ethical and religious principles to human behaviour. Usually used in a positive sense (and, therefore, reflecting goodness).
(moral) - deficiencies

Those features in the personalities and actions of human beings that reflect a lack of moral character (see above) and a failure to behave in ethically acceptable ways. Whereas 'courage' is a virtue, 'cowardice' is a deficiency.

- excesses

The opposite of 'moral deficiencies', often associated with virtue ethics, describing a person as displaying moral characteristics that lead to exaggerated, and often harmful, zeal in pursuing a particular course of action e.g. whereas a deficiency of courage leads to cowardice, excessive courage leads to recklessness.

- law

Authoritative rules which define what is right and wrong in all areas of human life, usually based on religious doctrines or principles, which may or may not be incorporated in the governing law of a nation or state.

- theory

Structured moral arguments that seek to offer a foundation for and an approach to moral decision making, usually, but not always, avoiding an appeal to religious authority e.g. utilitarianism or virtue theory.

- virtues

Human characteristics that display 'goodness' (see above) usually developed as a result of practised ethical awareness and behaviour.

morality

A body of principles and values which are intended to be the basis for people's decisions about their conduct. Often used interchangeably with 'ethics'.

natural processes

Physical, biological and chemical reactions and events through which the universe and human beings within the physical realities of the universe have developed and continue to develop e.g. geological and meteorological events, reproduction, genetic inheritance, birth, death.

narrative approach

A way of exploring moral issues that is based on historical and contemporary accounts (or stories) as a means of developing ethical principles or actions. Thus ethical dilemmas are examined using actual or fictional case studies rather than established ethical theories.

Nichomachean Ethics

Also known as Ta Ethika, was written by Aristotle (see above) and is the main source for his theory of moral virtue (see above). It consists of ten books based on notes from his lectures at the Lyceum which were either edited by or dedicated to Aristotle's son, Nicomachus.
nuclear deterrence

The argument that the possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons by the major world powers has maintained (and continues to maintain) a level of world peace (or at least a reduced level of international conflict) that has so far avoided mutual annihilation, either at regional or global levels. Many would argue that the possession of nuclear weapons increases the level of global threat rather than reduces it. It is further argued that deterrence based on the threat of the use of nuclear weapons is meaningless unless states are actually prepared to use them. Since their use is considered by many as morally unjustifiable the threat of their use is similarly immoral.

nuclear weapons

Weapons of mass destruction which derive their power from nuclear reactions of either atomic fusion or fission, both of which can be harnessed to release vast amounts of energy from a relatively small amount of nuclear matter. Such explosions would devastate a vast area of land and life within considerable distances from the explosion itself. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain the only examples of the horrific effects of the deployment of nuclear weapons.

pacifism

A belief, usually rooted in religious principles, that no violence nor war can ever be justified under any conditions. The teaching of Jesus and the examples of Gandhi and Martin Luther King are often quoted as a basis for pacifist thinking. Pacifism is usually closely associated with the principle of non-violence in international conflicts and personal/social relationships.

personhood

The term is usually deployed to describe the condition of a human foetus or embryo which has developed (or acquired) the characteristics of human personality. Ethical debates are normally focussed on the stage of human development at which such features are acquired and the degree to which the possession of such characteristics affects decisions about the morality of abortion.

philosophical

A logical, reasoned and structured approach to reflection and thought, including a rational approach to ethical decision-making (often termed ‘moral philosophy’).

pluralist context

The multi-faith, multi-cultural and multi-racial nature of society which may have a bearing on individual and social moral behaviour.

positive discrimination

A policy which demands deliberate action (for example, in the area of employment) in favour of those who may be marginalised on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, racial group, ethnic origin or religion.

pre-emptive military action/strikes

Armed action by a state (or states) against another state (or states) aimed at preventing a perceived and more catastrophic threat.

prejudice

A biased attitude in favour of or against particular individuals or groups, often based on preconceptions and generalisations rather than on the basis of justice, fairness and equality.
**prima facie duties**  
Definitions of personal obligations to act towards other people on the basis of what appears, at first glance, to be right, as developed, for example, by WD Ross (see below) in response to Kant’s categorical imperative (from the Latin, *primus* [first] and *facies* [face])

**proportionality**  
One of the criteria of the just war theory (see above) which demands, firstly, that the military action being considered in going to war should be proportional to the perceived threat (e.g. nuclear arms should not be used to combat a local dispute) and, secondly, that military action in pursuance of the war aims should, for example, minimize the force deployed and avoid innocent casualties or collateral damage.

**quality of life**  
A human condition in which a person enjoys a degree of physical, intellectual and emotional well-being, the absence of which through severe illness or disability is sometimes used as an argument in favour of euthanasia (see above)

**rational thought**  
(see reason below)

**reason**  
The use of human logic and intellectual understanding to reach a conclusion on the basis of the evidence available.

**religious perspective**  
An approach to thought and decision-making (including moral thought and decision-making) based on the assumptions, principles and practices of religion (either a particular religion or religions in general).

**research purposes**  
Situations, data or principles (either actual or theoretical) that are either assumed or specifically developed in order to explore, in an objective way and usually by experimental methods, a particular issue or question or to examine a particular theory.

**right to die**  
One possible assumption within the debate about euthanasia (see above) which claims that a person has freedom to make his or her own decision about the moment of death. The debate centres around whether human beings have such a right or whether such a right belongs, for example, only to God.

**right to life**  
As with the right to die above, the assumption (not necessarily shared by everyone) that all human beings, whatever their medical condition or mental or intellectual state, have a given, inherent right to continue to live until the moment of their natural death.

**Ross**  
WD Ross (1877-1971) was a Scottish philosopher who argued for a deontological ethic based on the assumption that the moral order was a fundamental given and that ethical behaviour should, therefore, be based on a series of prima facie (see above) moral obligations, the case for which does not need to be argued.

**sanctity of life**  
A belief that human life is sacred and that, therefore, no person has the right to take his or her own life or the life of another person, whether an unborn foetus or a fully alive human being.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>secular</td>
<td>Normally used to describe approaches to matters of philosophy or ethics which are specifically not based on religious assumptions but sometimes understood as approaches to such questions that are based on stated opposition to religious beliefs or perspectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>self-defence</td>
<td>Normally deployed in ethical studies to denote military action taken by a state against the threat of an aggressor state, and one of the criteria or principles of <em>jus ad bellum</em> within just war theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer, Peter</td>
<td>A prolific author in ethical studies, who has written or edited a number of textbooks, including <em>The Blackwell Companion to Ethics</em>, <em>The Oxford Reader on Ethics</em> and <em>Practical Ethics</em>. Ethical issues around animal welfare and animal rights have been prominent in his writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stem cell research</td>
<td>Scientific experimentation into the medical and other uses of cells (found only within the early stages of the embryo) which can be manipulated in order to develop into a range of medically beneficial tissue cells. The ethical arguments centre on whether the use of embryos—which are subsequently discarded—as a source of such cells can be morally justified merely on the grounds that tissue developed from such processes can be used for the improvement of the quality of life of human beings. Those who oppose abortion (except for when the life of the mother is in danger) regard stem cell research as an infringement of the embryo’s <em>right to life</em> and the principle of the <em>sanctity of life</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suicide</td>
<td>The taking of one's own life. The ethical issue revolves around the question of whether human beings have the moral right to take their own life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>summum bonum</td>
<td>See <em>highest good</em> above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synthetic</td>
<td>In general use meaning manufactured as opposed to natural; in the context of ethics, it is used to describe an argument which is based on experience rather than logic (in contrast to 'analytical'). Kant did not accept that moral statements could be <em>a posteriori</em> (see above) synthetic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teleological</td>
<td>A moral statement or theory which is based on the final goal (or consequence) of an act rather than on its being inherently moral or immoral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terminal illness</td>
<td>An illness which, in medical opinion, will almost inevitably lead to the patient’s death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terminal stages of illness</td>
<td>The existence of symptoms (e.g. pneumonia, unconsciousness) which accompany the final period before an expected death.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
theological  Literally, ‘the study of God’ but used for reflection, thought and writing on such issues as the nature of God, the meaning of salvation, the nature of the Church, and the nature and behaviour of human beings, and which can include reflection on the religious foundations of moral behaviour. The term is normally (but not exclusively) used within the Christian context.

transcendent being  A divine being or mode of life which is above and beyond the natural existence of human beings, usually applied to God or gods.

ultimate goal of morality  An attempt or attempts to define the purpose of ethical behaviour. For example, do human beings act morally in order to please God, to build a better society, to achieve personal salvation or eternal life or because the survival of human beings demands certain kinds of behaviour?

Universal Law of Nature  Kant’s first formulation of his categorical imperative (see above) which states: ‘Act always as if your maxim should become through your action a universal law of nature’. That is, an action should only be morally or ethically acceptable, according to Kant, if it is morally permitted for every person to act in this way.

validity  An attempt to define whether a particular ethical theory or principle can be appropriately applied in a particular situation and/or in relation to particular kinds of ethical behaviour. For example, are the Ten Commandments valid (i.e. applicable) as ethical laws in the 21st century?

very premature babies  Babies that are born either naturally or by caesarian section at such an early stage of pregnancy that they are likely to be able to survive only with considerable medical support (normally between 24 and 28 weeks gestation).

virtue theory  An ethical theory originally developed by Aristotle which seeks to define what kind of behaviour leads to the development of personal or communal qualities of goodness or excellence rather than whether an act is good or bad in itself.

war/warfare  Armed conflict between states or sometimes between different factions within a state (such as in a civil war) or between radical groups and the state itself (historically known as guerrilla warfare).
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<tr>
<td><strong>a priori/a posteriori</strong></td>
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<td><strong>abstract qualities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>analogy/analogical</strong></td>
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<td><strong>analytic(al)/synthetic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anselm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Aquinas</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Arminius</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Augustine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ayer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Barth</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Big Bang</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chisholm</td>
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<tr>
<td>compatibilist</td>
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<td>conceivable being</td>
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<tr>
<td>concept</td>
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<tr>
<td>continuous creation</td>
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<td>conversion</td>
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<td>creation</td>
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<td>Calvin</td>
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<td>cultural function</td>
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<td>Darwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>de Chardin, Teilhard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Descartes</td>
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determinism
- hard
- soft
empiricism
environment
equivocal
ethical function
evolution
existence
existence is not a predicate
existential
existential statements
experiencing-as
faith
falsification principle
fideism
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flew</td>
<td>Anthony Flew, 20th Century philosopher whose work on the falsification principle contributed to the development of the logical positivism movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>free beings</td>
<td>The philosophical notion that human beings have the ability to make moral choices ‘free’ from any element or agent of compulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Fighter</td>
<td>Parable of Basil Mitchell to support the idea of religious language being meaningful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaunilo</td>
<td>Contemporary to St Anselm, criticised the ontological argument by the counter argument of the ‘most perfect island’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genes</td>
<td>The biological ‘code’ that all living beings possess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hare</td>
<td>RM Hare, 20th Century philosopher; proposed the idea of the ‘blik’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawking</td>
<td>Contemporary astro-physicist, one of the world’s leading thinkers in this area. Has written extensively on modern cosmology and famously said that finding a great unified theory for everything would be akin to knowing the mind of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hick</td>
<td>Professor John Hick has written extensively on the philosophy of religion; has taught that faith should be balanced with reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbach</td>
<td>Paul-Henri Thiry, baron d'Holbach, 18th Century French philosopher, staunch atheist and a supporter of hard determinism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>RF Holland, philosopher who advocated that miracles could be explained as a set of coincidences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hume</td>
<td>(1711-1776); sceptic who argued strongly against religious beliefs such as the existence of God and the miraculous on the grounds of their non-rational basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immortality of the soul</td>
<td>Concept of the eternal existence of non-physical element of each human individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impossible or necessary</td>
<td>Alternatives presented by Malcolm in his modern version of the ontological argument; Malcolm contends that since God’s existence cannot be brought about nor ended by anything and is also not impossible, God must necessarily exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in continuo</td>
<td>Continuing to act in the world (used in reference to God)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in intellectu</td>
<td>In the mind, as opposed to reality (used in the ontological argument)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in re</td>
<td>In reality, as opposed to in the mind; the ontological argument asserts that God’s existence must necessarily be actual rather than imaginary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligent Design</td>
<td>The theological concept that the universe has an intelligent mind behind its design, as it demonstrates both order and purpose which could not have occurred by chance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inherent</td>
<td>The concept of existing in someone or something as a natural and inseparable quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interventionist God</td>
<td>See <em>in continuo</em> above; necessary concept in traditional understanding of the existence of miracles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>William James, 19th/20th Century American philosopher who proposed a voluntarist theory of faith; also widely regarded for his work on the classification of religious experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kant</td>
<td>(1724-1804); critic of the ontological argument who used the moral argument to contend for God's existence and life after death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kierkegaard</td>
<td>(1815-1855); considered that religious faith could never be based on reason and employed approximation (certainty), postponement (commitment) and passion (cost) arguments to demonstrate this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>language</td>
<td>The medium of communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>language-game</td>
<td>Idea that the meaning of language can only be understood if the rules of its particular context are understood; term introduced by Wittgenstein and used by later reductionists such as Phillips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laws of nature</td>
<td>Perceived inviolate natural phenomena based on long-term observation of regular occurrences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis, HD</td>
<td>20th Century theologian who asserted that faith in God can be assisted by the proper use of reason, but did not accept that God's existence could be inferred by reference to the world itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>libertarianism</td>
<td>A philosophy which holds that human beings are free, have free will and that any concept of determinism is necessarily false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logical positivism</td>
<td>View which asserts that anything which cannot be verified or falsified by use of sense experience, logic or scientific means is meaningless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm</td>
<td>Norman Malcolm, 20th Century philosopher who presented a form of the ontological argument that distinguished between <em>Proslogion</em> 2 and <em>Proslogion</em> 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maximal excellence</td>
<td>Term used by Plantinga in his version of the ontological argument; quality incorporating omnipotence, omniscience and moral perfection and an integral part of maximal greatness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meaningfulness</td>
<td>A criterion applied to language by empiricists/logical positivists, in order to establish whether the words can be verified or falsified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>metaphysical</td>
<td>That which is beyond the physical/material; concerned with ultimate questions about existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill</td>
<td>John Stuart Mill. Influential 19th Century philosopher and social reformer, who taught, as a libertarian, that man is free to do anything unless he harms others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miracle</td>
<td>Act of wonder; variously defined including a violation of the laws of nature (Hume) and an unusual and striking event that evokes and mediates a vivid awareness of God (Hick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Philosopher Basil Mitchell, whose Freedom Fighter parable was used to illustrate that religious language is meaningful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>models and qualifiers</td>
<td>Ramsey’s division of religious language; ‘model’ is a representation which helps understanding of the original; ‘qualifier’ is a pointer to the way in which the model is to be developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>most perfect island</td>
<td>Gaunilo’s analogy in his argument against Anselm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mysticism</td>
<td>Experiences or systematic meditation which causes a heightened awareness of the divine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nature/nurture debate</td>
<td>This is a debate that centres around which of the two aspects, Nature (ie the inherited influences such as our genes and physiological make-up) or Nurture (ie how life has influenced us through our experiences) determines how we behave and live our lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>necessary elements of relationship</td>
<td>This relates to Buber’s classification of relationships as either ‘I-thou’ (personal) or ‘I-It’ (material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>necessary existence</td>
<td>Concept that existence is essential to the actual idea of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-propositional</td>
<td>Where meaning is conveyed without asserting it; this includes attitudes, feelings and opinions. In this sense, non-propositional revelation refers to the sense of an individual having a feeling that something had been revealed to them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noncognitive</td>
<td>That which cannot be verified or falsified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>numinous</td>
<td>Term devised by Otto to describe religious experiences beyond the natural and explicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ontological argument</td>
<td>Argument for the existence of God based on the concept of the nature of being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>origin of the universe</td>
<td>Beginnings of matter and of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>participation</td>
<td>Term associated with Tillich’s understanding of religious language as symbolic; inner connection with the reality symbolised; being part of the reality to which the symbol points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pascal</td>
<td>Blaise Pascal, 17\textsuperscript{th} Century French philosopher. His famous ‘wager’ is an argument that states it is entirely rational to believe in God and irrational to be irreligious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacocke</td>
<td>Arthur Peacocke, 20\textsuperscript{th} Century theologian and scientist, who argued for the compatibility of Christianity and Evolution, in his work, <em>Evolution: The Disguised Friend of Faith</em>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagius</td>
<td>Early Christian ascetic c.4\textsuperscript{th}/5\textsuperscript{th} Century. Wrote extensively on the freedom of the human will and taught that humans could avoid being sinful and freely choose to obey God’s commands. This brought him into direct opposition with St Augustine of Hippo, especially concerning Augustine’s doctrine of original sin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perfect being</td>
<td>This relates to Anselm’s concept of the necessary existence of the most perfect conceivable being, <em>ie</em> God, in his ontological argument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips</td>
<td>DZ Phillips, 20\textsuperscript{th} Century philosopher and follower of Wittgenstein, specifically in supporting the concept of language existing within conceptual frameworks (‘language games’).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philosophy/philosophical</td>
<td>Literally the ‘love of wisdom’. Philosophy is the investigation of the nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge, or values, based on logical reasoning rather than empirical methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantinga</td>
<td>Contemporary philosopher who contributed to the ontological argument with the concept of ‘possible worlds’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polkinghorne</td>
<td>Contemporary philosopher, trained as a scientist before becoming ordained. Has sought to reconcile religion and science as complementary fields in the search for truth about the origins of the universe and humankind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible worlds</td>
<td>Concept used by Platinga in his ‘modal’ form of the ontological argument to test for logical impossibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>predestination</td>
<td>The belief that God has already decided what will happen in all things; specifically this relates to the idea that God has already elected certain souls for salvation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>predetermined</td>
<td>Something determined in advance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>predicate</td>
<td>Quality or characteristic of an object or entity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prior cause</td>
<td>Relating to the concept of determinism, in that all events are the results of some ‘prior cause’, usually factors such as environment and heredity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proportion/attribution</td>
<td>Aquinas’ division of analogical language about God; analogy of ‘proportion’ means that attributes of God are proportional to God’s nature in the same way as attributes of humans are proportional to their nature; analogy of ‘attribution’ means that attributes of humans are derived from and reflect attributes of God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**proposition/al** / non-propositional

Different forms of revelation; ‘propositional’ being revelation through supernatural means (such as special experiences and sacred writings) conveying authoritative truths; ‘non-propositional’ being revelation through general or natural means (such as ordinary experiences of Nature and human history) using human reason to work out truths.

**Ramsey**

Ian Ramsey, 20th Century English philosopher and, later, Bishop of Durham who provided his ‘models and qualifiers’ theory as a meaningful way to talk about God.

**rational**

Having or exercising the ability to reason.

**reason**

Logical and analytical human thinking process.

**reincarnation/rebirth**

Transmigration of an individual soul or consciousness after death to another earthly body or living thing.

**religious-specific terminology**

Terms which are specific within the realm of religion. These may be words which are used as part of the religious experience; paradigm or study.

**responding-to**

A way of experiencing faith in terms of how the individual reacts.

**resurrection/reanimation**

Continuance of an individual after death in a new spiritual or transfigured body in another sphere of life.

**revelation**

Disclosure of God’s nature, purposes and truths.

**Russell**

Bertrand Russell, Welsh 20th Century philosopher widely known for his dismissal of religion as unhelpful and even potentially harmful. He expressed concern over existential statements within the ontological argument. Russell did not deny the existence of abstract objects; what he denied was the necessary existence of abstract objects.

**scientific world view**

View that the universe is a machine and that truth is discovered only by scientific enquiry and logical reasoning based on empirical evidence.

**seeing-as**

Wittgenstein coined the phrase ‘seeing-as’ to suggest that truly seeing something requires mental organisation, selecting what is significant from what is trivial, collating memories, and a host of other activities that make the act of seeing a partnership between the one who sees and the object that is seen. ‘Seeing-as’ is another phrase for mindful experience.

**Smilansky**

Saul Smilansky, contemporary philosopher who regards free will as an illusion, favouring determinism.

**Stace**

Walter T Stace, contemporary philosopher, who argues for the view of compatibilism.
Stannard  
Russell Stannard, contemporary British scientist, who has carried out research in the field of high energy nuclear physics for most of his academic life. He has used his work in this field to help bring a greater understanding between science and religion for which he was awarded the Templeton Project Trust Award in 1986.

Strawson  
Galen Strawson, contemporary English philosopher, who believes that no-one is ever ultimately morally responsible for their actions and that, therefore, free-will is impossible.

Swinburne  
Richard Swinburne, contemporary British philosopher and Christian apologist. Used his *Toys in the Cupboard* parable as a means of challenging the falsification principle.

**symbolic**  
Something that represents another thing; something which points to a metaphysical reality yet contains within itself meaning and significance.

**synthetic**  
A statement is synthetic when the predicate is not included in the subject; its truth can only be determined by observation or experience.

Tennant  
FR Tennant held a voluntarist view of faith as one that could be reached via empirical means.

**theory**  
A set of statements or principles devised to explain a group of facts or phenomena, especially one that has been repeatedly tested or is widely accepted and can be used to make predictions about natural phenomena.

Tillich  
Paul Tillich, 20th Century philosopher who held a voluntarist view of faith, coined the term ‘correlation’ to explain that the contents of the Christian faith can be accessed through existential questions and theological answers in mutual interdependence.

**Toys in the Cupboard**  
Swinburne’s parable to illustrate an argument contra to the falsification principle.

**univocal**  
In language terms this refers to the use of the same word in different contexts having the same meaning, eg Cardiff is a city, Kathmandu is a city – we understand the use of the word city in both cases, although the contexts are different.

**verification principle**  
Something is meaningful only if it can be proved through empirical evidence.

**Vienna Circle**  
The Vienna Circle was a group of early 20th century philosophers who sought to re-conceptualise empiricism, by making use of the recent advances in the physical and formal sciences. They met in Vienna (hence the name) under the nominal guidance of Moritz Schlick.
violation of the laws of nature

David Hume’s phrase used in the definition of what could be considered a miracle. Hume did not state that miracles could not happen but that, due to this violation factor (amongst other reasons), it would be impossible to ever prove that one had happened.

voluntarist theories of faith

Term applied to theories about the nature of faith which emphasise the part played by the human will and self-commitment.

Wittgenstein

20th century philosopher, originally championed logical positivism, later rejected this field of enquiry as flawed. His use of ‘language games’ contributes towards an understanding of the meaningfulness of religious language within society.
## RS3 BS: Studies in Biblical Studies (A2)

### SECTION A: Studies in the Old Testament (A2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acted parables</td>
<td>Symbolic actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allegory</td>
<td>Story in which the meaning or message is represented symbolically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amos</td>
<td>(Prophesied circa 750 BCE); a sheep breeder and fruit farmer of Tekoa; the earliest canonical prophet</td>
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<tr>
<td>anthropomorphic</td>
<td>In the likeness of a human being; with human characteristics; term used in describing the concept of God held by some biblical writers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apocrypha</td>
<td>Group of important Jewish writings not universally regarded as belonging to the authentic canon of the Old Testament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>authorial intention</td>
<td>Allowing the text to convey the author’s values and world view; often referred to as the ‘implied author’ in narrative criticism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>blueprint</td>
<td>A document which is a plan or model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community</td>
<td>A group of people living together with a common religion and sense of values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compilation theories</td>
<td>Ideas as to how a document comes to be in its present form.</td>
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<tr>
<td>concept of God</td>
<td>Idea or mental picture of what God is like.</td>
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<tr>
<td>conscience of the nation</td>
<td>Showing the nation a sense of moral right and wrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>covenant</td>
<td>Binding agreement between two parties based on promises and obligations; Jeremiah’s ‘new covenant’ mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31-34 is new in that the covenant is inward, universal, individual and clearly unconditional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Concept of God as maker of the universe and giver of life</td>
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<tr>
<td>credible</td>
<td>Something that can be believed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critical methods</td>
<td>Ways of analysing, explaining and codifying (the text of the Old Testament) without prior acceptance of traditional religious assumptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critique</td>
<td>Critical analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cult</td>
<td>System of religious worship, especially as expressed in ritual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliverer</td>
<td>Concept of God as the one who frees, rescues and saves his people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>divinely inspired</td>
<td>Brought into being by the Spirit of God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
doom
Death, destruction, or a terrible fate

engagement
Being involved in something

evolutionary understanding
Awareness and perception of developing change or progression.

evolved perception
An understanding that has developed gradually

Exodus
The Hebrew departure from Egyptian slavery, dated variously between the mid-16th century BCE and the mid-13th century BCE

Ezekiel
A prophet who preached during the Babylonian Exile circa 587-520 BCE

form criticism
Identification and classification of types of literature within the biblical text based on determining the oral background or original setting (Sitz im Leben) of different portions of text.

four-source theory
Idea that four distinct sources (known as J, E, P and D) constitute the written Pentateuch.

future hope
The confident expectation that things will get better over time

Genesis
The first book of the Bible, giving an account of creation and the first inhabitants of the earth

historical-grammatical exegesis
An explanation of a text based on a study of history and grammar

Holy One
Isaiah’s special term for God; emphasises the transcendence of God, who is separate and set apart from all other beings.

Hosea
(Propheesd circa 750-725 BCE); son of Beeri and wife of Gomer; marriage mirrored relationship between God and Israel.

idolatry
Worship of images; often used in the Old Testament to indicate the worship of gods other than Yahweh.

immanent
Indwelling and permanently pervading; God present in and involved with life on earth and the universe

individual responsibility
The state of being called to account for one’s own actions.

infinite
Without limitations of time, space or power.

integrity of the text
The wholeness, unity or trustworthiness of a written work

Isaiah
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’
Jeremiah (Prophesied circa 626-586 BCE); son of Hilkiah, a priest.

Joshua Moses’ successor as leader of the Hebrew people; the name of the sixth book in the Old Testament

judge Concept of God as dispenser of justice, punishing failure to observe covenant law and moral breakdown, rewarding obedience and faithfulness and showing mercy.

legacy A situation that exists because of past events or actions

literary characteristics Features that are typical of a particular written work

literary criticism Attempt to identify and reconstruct sources from which the biblical text is derived.

manuscript A handwritten document

Masoretic text The oldest extant edition of the Hebrew Bible, finalised in Tiberias in the 9th century CE

messianic expectation Hope of imminent arrival of divine deliverer or liberator of Jewish people.

monarchy State headed by supreme ruler called king

monotheism Belief in one God.

ministry The work or office of a minister of religion, priest or prophet

Mosaic Of or associated with Moses

nabi (plural nebi’im) Originally referred to early Israelite ecstatic prophet but is also the Hebrew term used for a canonical prophet such as Amos or Jeremiah.

narrative criticism Form of textual criticism that regards a narrative work (such as Genesis) as a complete and self-consistent unit in itself; interprets the text from the perspective of the ‘implied author’ and ‘implied reader’.

new covenant The Old Testament refers to four covenants (with Noah, Abraham, Moses and David); the prophet Jeremiah called for a ‘new covenant’ to be written, not on stone tablets like the covenant with Moses, but on people’s hearts

new Jerusalem A vision of a transformed Jerusalem, the Jewish capital

omnipotent All-powerful

Pentateuch The first five books of the Old Testament

predictive element Relating to the foretelling of the future

prophecy Proclamation conveying alleged communication from a deity concerning contemporary society and often regarding coming punishment or deliverance.
| **Psalms** | A religious song or hymn; the Book of Psalms contains 150 such songs, most of which are believed to have been written for use in Temple worship between the 10th and the 6th centuries BCE |
| **reader response** | Accepting the dynamics and value system of the text and believing and seeking to know everything the text assumes readers know and believe; often referred to as the ‘implied reader’ in narrative criticism |
| **redaction criticism** | Study of editorial effect on final form of text involving search for the distinctive viewpoint or intention of the editor and analysis of his use of source material. |
| **resurrection** | The reversal of physical death and restoration of life; [many Old Testament passages allude to the continued survival of the dead but only one contains an explicit and clear statement of belief in a resurrection (Daniel 12:2)]. |
| **ro’eh** | Early Israelite prophet often associated with the cult and sanctuaries of ancient Israel or royal court; seer. |
| **Septuagint** | The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible produced in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE, so called because of the tradition that it was prepared by 72 translators (Latin *septuaginta* = seventy) |
| **Sheol** | Name of dwelling place of the dead. |
| **source criticism** | See literary criticism above. |
| **Temple** | Building in Jerusalem symbolising the presence of Yahweh and used for worship and celebration of annual feasts; central place of cultic sacrifice |
| **Temple cult** | The system of religious worship, and its staff, that operated in the Temple in Jerusalem during the period of the monarchy |
| **textual criticism** | A study of the text of a written work |
| **textual reconstruction** | The editing of a text to supply missing words and/or to amend difficult words so that the meaning is more intelligible |
| **transcendent** | Apart from, beyond and outside life on earth and the universe. |
| **version (of the Bible)** | A particular form or edition of the Bible |
| **Vulgate** | The main Latin version of the Bible, prepared in the 4th cent CE |
| **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). |

1 & 2 Corinthians
Two letters written by Paul to the church at Corinth

1 Timothy
One of two letters written by Paul to Timothy, one of his assistants

1st century church
See Early Christian community/church below

Acts

Ananias and Sapphira
Two members of the early church who withheld a part of the proceeds of a sale from the apostles, and who apparently died of guilt

apostleship
The state of being an apostle, a title given to Jesus’ disciples after his resurrection; Paul too describes himself as an apostle (1 Corinthians 15:8-9), because the risen Jesus had appeared to him.

authorship
The identification of who actually composed any particular text. Many New Testament texts are said to have been written by a particular author, but closer examination reveals that in many cases such designation is at best ambiguous. Evidence might be sought from within the texts themselves, from other texts, and from external sources. The ability to identify the author is a prerequisite for determining authorial intention. A distinction has to be drawn between the source of the individual components of the texts, and the final compiler/redactor.

autocratic
Relating to a ruler who has total power and who insists on complete obedience from others

bishop
A senior member of the Christian clergy, usually in charge of a diocese – a group of parishes within a geographical area; from Greek episkopos = overseer

breaking of bread
The climax of the eucharist; bread is broken to signify the broken body of Christ on the cross.

casting of lots
Deciding something by choosing an item at random, e.g. a piece of stick from a number of sticks

charismata
Special gifts given by God

charismatic endowment (charisma, charismatic)
A set of terms especially associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In medieval theology, the term ‘charisma’ is used to designate a spiritual gift, conferred upon individuals by the grace of God. Since the early twentieth century, the term ‘charismatic’ has come to refer to styles of theology and worship which place particular emphasis upon the immediate presence and experience of the Holy Spirit.
Christological
Relating to Christology, a study of the Person of Jesus – who he was and how we should understand him.

Church
Community of Christian believers that came together in various places as a result of the missionary activity of the earliest Christians. Thought to prefigure the Kingdom of God, the place where God exercised kingly rule on earth. Within the documents of the New Testament one can discern the development of a structured and organised Church during the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Commentary
A text written to explain and interpret the actual New Testament texts, usually structured in a verse by verse format, but will also contain discussion of date, authorship, and readership. Commentaries have been written regularly throughout the history of Christianity, and will often differ in views and opinions. Different critical methods of enquiry will have been employed depending on the date of the writing of the commentary, and the theological context of the author.

Communal Life
A way of life shared by all members of a community.

Compatible
Consistent, in keeping, well-suited; e.g. ‘black is compatible with any colour’.

Composition
Can refer either to the final form of the text, or the process of bringing together the final form of the text.

Cornelius
A centurion at Caesarea, baptized by Peter (Acts 10); the event opened the door to the baptism of Gentiles.

Council at/of Jerusalem
A conference of the Christian Apostles in Jerusalem in about 50 CE which decreed that Gentile Christians did not have to observe the Mosaic Law of the Jews.

Critical Methods
Strategies that allow scholars to study the New Testament texts in order to answer such questions as date and place of writing, author, intended audience, theological perspective. Allows similarities and differences to be identified between the individual documents of the New Testament and between New Testament documents and other contemporary documents. Will enquire into sources, literary style, language, vocabulary, final structure etc.

Crucifixion
Execution by nailing to a cross.

Deacon
A minister ranking below a priest; from Greek diakonos=servant.

death
Straightforwardly, the end of physical existence. However, within the New Testament there are two further perspectives that are developed. There is the idea of a ‘second’ death—the ultimate destruction of those condemned at the final judgement. There is also the idea that prior to becoming a Christian an individual is ‘dead in sin’. When one becomes a Christian, one is ‘made alive in Christ’—a spiritual experiencing of that demonstrated physically in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
| **democratic** | Based on the principle of democracy, i.e. that all members of society are equal |
| **destination** | Might be a geographical location, e.g. Paul's journeys. Could also refer to the location of the churches to which some of the New Testament is addressed, e.g. Corinth, Ephesus, etc. |
| **discipline** | Controlled behaviour; obedience to a code of rules |
| **divorce** | The legal ending of a marriage |
| **early Christian community / Church** | The society of those who believed in Jesus as described in the New Testament |
| **Easter faith** | A way of referring to the Christian religion, which came into being as the result of events experienced by the followers of Jesus over the Easter period when he was crucified and resurrected. The Easter faith is primarily a belief in the resurrection. |
| **Ephesians** | A letter written by Paul to the church at Ephesus |
| **epistles** | Those texts in the New Testament assumed to have been written in letter form, i.e. directed to be read by a particular group or individual. These include all texts attributed to Paul, the 'anonymous' epistle to the Hebrews, the 'letter' of James, the 'letters' of Peter, the 'letters' of John, and the 'letter' of Jude. There are other letters within other New Testament texts—e.g. the letters to the churches found in the Book of the Revelation. |
| **ethics / ethical** | System according to which questions of right and wrong are determined. Christian ethics is a system whereby such questions are answered according to the teachings of Jesus, the New Testament, and the Church. New Testament ethics is not so systematic, rather it identifies within the New Testament examples of ethical decision making, and then has to determine according to what ethical system such decisions came to be made. One key question is whether the New Testament pronouncements on such matters have any contemporary relevance; if so, why?; if not, why not? |
| **forgiveness** | The act of an aggrieved party towards a perpetrator according to which the grievance is removed, allowing the parties to be reconciled to each other. Usually discussed in relation to God and humankind—the forgiving of sin. Has its origins in Jewish sacrificial system—atonement. Jesus' death is often understood as an 'atoning sacrifice'. Believing that Jesus died for sin allows the believer to experience forgiveness from God. |
| **Galatians** | A letter written by Paul to the church in Galatia |
| **Gamaliel** | A leading authority in the Sanhedrin (the Council of the Jews) in the mid first century and, in Christian tradition, the teacher of Paul the apostle |
Gentile  Strictly any non-Jew, as far as a Jew is concerned. Sometimes in the New Testament the term ‘Greek’ might be used. Possible ambiguity surrounds the designation of ‘Samaritans’. Gentiles became able to enter the Christian Church directly without having to convert to Judaism first, following the pronouncements of the Council of Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15, though Paul’s letter to the Galatians suggests that things did not always go smoothly. Direct admission of gentiles required a modification of the way the ‘Law’ of the Old Testament was perceived as between Jew and non-Jew. See Romans 1-4.

Gospels  The first four books of the New Testament. The ‘Good News’. Purported biographies of Jesus. Other ‘gospels’ were in circulation in the early Church but only the four were accepted into the canon. ‘The Gospel’ is a phrase used in evangelical theology to describe preaching a particular, ‘bible based’ interpretation of the significance of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Great Commission  Jesus’ final command to his disciples after his resurrection – to go and baptize all the nations of the world; see Matthew 28:19-20 and parallels

Heaven  Traditionally created by God, the ultimate destination of the faithful. The place where God exercises his Kingly rule. Was set within a three tiered creation—Heaven, Earth, Hell. Following physical death, it was believed that one went either to Heaven or Hell dependent on the relationship established with God during one’s earthly life. Thought by some to be prefigured in the Church. An extreme view would equate Heaven with Church.

Hell  An element of Divine creation. Following death, the destination of all who have denied God. A place of eternal punishment. Modelled on Gehenna, the rubbish tip outside Jerusalem that is always burning. Some believe it was created as the final destination of the Devil and his angels/followers.

Holy Spirit  The third Person of the Godhead; God as active in the world

Jerusalem  The capital city of the Jews

Judaism  The religion of the Jews

Judaizers  In the history of the Christian religion, those who insisted that converts to Christianity should first accept Judaism

Judas  The disciple who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver

Judgement  Traditionally understood within Judaeo/Christian eschatology as that which God carries out on the ‘last day’ when the eternal destiny of each individual is determined—Heaven or Hell. Often referred to as the ‘last’ or ‘final’ judgement.

Koinonia  A Greek word that means partnership, fellowship or community, frequently used in the New Testament for the early Christian Church; the term embraces the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, e.g. in I Corinthians 10:16, where the English word ‘communion’ translates the Greek koinonia
Law

Within the theological discussions of the New Testament, the law is the Mosaic Law, given by God to his people to regulate their conduct in order to keep the people in a proper relationship with God. The coming of Christ heralded the period of grace whereby all that was required in order to be in such a relationship was belief, or faith, that Jesus was/is the way of inaugurating such a relationship. The issue for Jewish converts, then, was what if any relevance does the law have? Paul deals this with in his letters to the Galatians and the Romans. There was/is also the issue of the relevance of this (Jewish) law to Gentile converts to Christianity.

leadership (Church)

Patterns that evolved within the early Christian communities. Some are in terms of office, e.g. bishop (episcopos), elder (presbuteros), and deacon (diakonos). Others are in terms of function, e.g. apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. There is also evidence within the texts that as the communities became established, both office and function were to change, even though the same title might be employed.

Legalistically prescriptive

Enforced by a practice of keeping strictly to the law.

life

Straightforwardly, physical existence, the time between birth and death. The New Testament also speaks of eternal life and of immortality. It talks too of spiritual life, life in Christ, being born again/anew/from above. The sacrament of baptism/ordinance came to mark the beginning of 'life'. There is also reference to resurrection life, life after death.

Lord

The saying 'Jesus is Lord' serves as a statement of faith for Christians who regard Jesus as both fully man and fully God.

Luke

The author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts

Mark

The author of the second gospel; chronologically, however, it is generally accepted that his gospel was the first

marriage

The formal union of a man and a woman by which they become husband and wife

Matthaean exception clause

The clause in Matthew 5:32 which appears to condone divorce when a wife has committed adultery, and which is absent from parallel passages in Mark and Luke

Matthew

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

Messiah

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

Miracles

Actions that contravene the laws of nature and that are considered to be the work of God
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mission</td>
<td>The work carried out by a religion to spread its faith. The commission of the Early Church to spread the ‘good news’ as far as they could. Examples are Matthew 28 and Acts 1. An interesting variation is found in John 20. Throughout the New Testament period, such missionary activity was at the heart of the church’s activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>missionary imperative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>observance (Church)</td>
<td>See structure (Church)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisation</td>
<td>The way in which a movement is ordered or arranged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul/Pauline</td>
<td>Adjective used to describe the letters of the New Testament attributed to Paul. This does not mean that all such texts were actually written by Paul. Can also be used to describe theological concepts and ideas that are thought to have originated within the literature that bears Paul’s name. Has been used as a simple description of a way of understanding emerging Christian theology as opposed to Johannine theology, a set of ideas based on documents attributed to the author John.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecost event</td>
<td>The event that occurred on the first Christian Pentecost, i.e. 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 \textit{pentēkostē} = fiftieth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persecution</td>
<td>The systematic mistreatment of a person or group by another group. The persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire in New Testament times begins with Nero (37-68).</td>
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<tr>
<td>person and work of Jesus</td>
<td>Who Jesus was (fully God/ fully man), and what he did, both in his public ministry and as Saviour of humankind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>One of Jesus’ original twelve disciples who was assigned a leadership role by Jesus (Matthew 12:17-19 and parallels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>prayer</td>
<td>The act of verbal communication with God for the purpose of worshipping or seeking guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>pre-eminence</td>
<td>Superiority to; above all others</td>
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<tr>
<td>preaching</td>
<td>In Christian tradition, proclaiming the gospel (good news) of Jesus; delivering a sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presbyter</td>
<td>A local Christian leader; Its literal meaning in Greek \textit{(presbyteros)} is elder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resurrection</td>
<td>The description of what happened to Jesus after he had been placed in the tomb following his crucifixion. This was a physical resurrection—resurrection of the body. Belief in such a resurrection was held by the Jews as part of their eschatological perspective: the resurrection on the last day. Everyone who dies will experience such a resurrection prior to the judgement of God. Has also come to be used to describe a conversion experience, a spiritual resurrection. Realised eschatology accepts the latter but not the former. However, it is possible to believe in either or both. Major creeds still affirm belief in the ‘resurrection of the body’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans</td>
<td>A letter written by Paul to the church in Rome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sermon  An address on a religious or moral subject

sin  Disobeying God. ‘Original Sin’ is alleged to have entered the realm of human existence when Eve and then Adam succumbed to the temptation of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. It is believed by some to be part of the natural condition of all human beings. Others understand it to be those thoughts and actions that are contrary to the will and purpose of God for the person concerned and the world as a whole. At the heart of Christian Theology is the belief that in some way Jesus’ death secured forgiveness from sin, making it possible for those who so believe to live within the will and purpose of God.

Solomon’s Portico  The covered way running along the eastern wall in the Court of the Gentiles of Herod’s temple. It was the scene of Christ’s teaching in John 10:23, and the healing of the lame man in Acts 3:11. The apostles preached and performed miracles there (Acts 5:12)

Son of David  One of the titles attributed to Jesus. Christians believe that he was the promised Messiah. The Hebrew word *messiah* means ‘anointed’. In Israelite history it was customary to anoint kings. The Jerusalem kings were all descended from King David. Therefore, the new ‘anointed one’, Jesus, was also of the seed of David. Matthew 1 and Luke 3 give genealogical testimony that Jesus was a direct descendant of David through Joseph. Thus Jesus was ‘the Son of God’ in both a spiritual and physical sense

Son of God  In Christian tradition, the term refers to the relationship between Jesus and God; in the Old Testament, it is used in several different ways.

spiritual gifts  Gifts that are supernaturally bestowed on Christians to strengthen the church. They are described in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4, and include prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, showing mercy, diverse tongues, interpretation of tongues

structure (Church)  In terms of the New Testament, those examples of the way the early Christian communities organised themselves in terms of personnel and activities. This would be demonstrated in terms of patterns of leadership, the organisation of worship, wider missionary activity.

Suffering Servant  A title of Jesus; the prophecy of Second Isaiah, written during the Babylonian Exile, contains four passages known as the Songs of the Suffering Servant, which have been interpreted by the Christian Church as prophesies of the coming of Jesus, even though they were written many centuries before his birth; passages such as Isaiah 53:5 are taken to refer to the sufferings of Jesus and the abolution of sins. Jewish theologians believe the Servant to be the nation of Israel

theocratic  Relating to a system of government where priests rule in the name of God
theology  Orderly presentation of the ideas which underpin the beliefs that individuals and/or groups might have about God. The New Testament description of the person and work of Christ, together with its various internal interpretive paradigms provides the basis for a Christian Theology. All religions will have their particular theologies. Within Christianity various different theologies can be identified, e.g. Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Pentecostalist, etc.

unity  The state of being united or whole
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apostolic succession

The unbroken continuation of practices established within the earliest Christian communities, during the time when the Apostles were still alive, who were themselves responsible for establishing such practices. Usually applied to the ordination of clergy by a bishop, the office of bishop being one that has existed since the apostolic age. The Apostle Peter is traditionally regarded as being the first Bishop of Rome. There is some controversy as to whether this notion of succession applies to office, function, or activity. Is it the activities of the ordained clergy that are crucial regardless of who might carry out the act of ordination? Is it possible for a person functioning as a bishop to ordain another? Is it only a serving bishop that can ordain? This is often discussed within the wider context of the whole area of legitimate authority within the life of the church.

authority

Possessing the ability to determine the issues that arise within the ongoing life of the Church as regards interpretation, doctrine and practice. It is always thought of as having been established in the New Testament and as such determined by reading the texts. However, many of the issues requiring authoritative determination arise out of competing interpretations of the meaning of particular biblical texts. Therefore there has to be extra-biblical authority, albeit pointed to within the text. Hence the claim that final authority rests within the Church. There is also the issue of the role of the Holy Spirit in such matters, the binding force of any ruling. Many if not all of the divisions that have occurred within the history of the Church have been to do with issues of authority.

baptism of the Holy Spirit

According to Jesus in Luke 24:49, ‘the Promise of the Father’, through which believers in Jesus receive ‘power from on high’. According to Acts 1:8, Jesus further referred to the baptism with the Holy Spirit as an experience through which his disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Body of Christ

Can refer to those who are members of the Church, the Church being regarded as a continuing incarnation, enlivened by the presence within of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the risen Christ. Is also used within the liturgy of the Eucharist to describe the bread that is offered. The precise relationship between the bread and the actual body of Christ within the Eucharist is a matter of controversy between the traditions, and involves discussion of the notion of ‘real presence’, ‘consubstantiation’, and ‘transubstantiation’.

Boff

Leonardo Boff (b. 1938), a Brazilian theologian; one of the first exponents of Liberation Theology, whose past support for communist regimes and recent celebration of the destruction of the World Trade Centre as marking ‘a new planetary and humanistic paradigm’ has caused controversy.
Bultmann
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.

Catholic
Universal, indivisible, all embracing, comprising every member of the Church from every time and every place. More popularly referred to, post-Reformation, in terms of the Roman Catholic Church; that part of the Church acknowledging the authority of the See of Rome. The Roman Catholic Church itself understood from within as continuing to be universal and indivisible, that with which all others have to unite if they would truly be part of the Church. This has obvious implications for ecumenical relations. In its original creedal form, the term ‘catholic’ cannot be used apart from the terms ‘holy’ and ‘apostolic’—a body of people separated by God, indivisible in time and space, continuing in unbroken succession from the earliest Christian communities.

Celtic spirituality
A way of expressing Christian beliefs in worship and practice thought to have its roots in the pre-Roman, Celtic peoples, and found in the Christianity of Celtic Britain before the Dark Ages. Has involved a rediscovering of the ‘natural’ dimension attached to worship. As such it has affinities with emerging ‘new-age’ traditions, which has led some to be critical of its potential for syncretism. Others see it as a positive development of an inherent spirituality that can serve to complement Christian perspectives, rather than having to import an alien context within which to express new found Christian belief. The Iona Community has been particularly influential in its modern revival.

Charismatic renewal
Process within the life of the Church, either as a whole, or particular groups, whereby it is believed that the Holy Spirit reinvigorates the Church’s life. This might be accompanied by particular manifestations of speech or behaviour. It might provoke a search for unity or perpetuate division. During the 1960s and 1970s there was a widespread interdenominational movement which developed the ‘charismatic’ movement or the ‘renewal’ movement. More recently, and more controversially there has been the phenomenon of the ‘Toronto’ Blessing and its subsequent impact on large sections of the church. Critics of all such movements see them as a consequence of failing to appreciate the proper role of the Holy Spirit within the unfolding of the purpose of God as described within a ‘balanced’ Trinitarian perspective. Others see these developments as the inevitable consequence of the overhumanising and therefore the despiritualising of the church in order to preserve the essential sovereignty of God over the affairs of the church.

Christ of faith
A term coined to distinguish between the Jesus of history, and the Christ whom the church proclaims.

Christological
Relating to Christology, a study of the Person of Jesus – who he was and how we should understand him.
Christology  The understanding of the person and work of Christ within the wider context of emerging Christian Theology. There is Christology ‘from above’ that begins with the assumed Divinity of Christ and proceeds to explain how he might be found in human form. There is Christology ‘from below’ that begins with the human Jesus and proceeds to explain how he might be understood as divine. It will involve issues such as pre-existence, the nature of his birth, Adoptionism, Gnostic and Docetic heresies; the significance of the crucifixion in terms of sacrifice and atonement; messianic fulfilment; resurrection; eschatological perspectives, and many other questions.

debate  A formal, interactive presentation of argument

demythologising  Removing the mythological elements from a text

Communion of Saints  The spiritual solidarity that binds together the faithful on earth and the saints in heaven in one mystical body under Christ, its head; its symbol is the eucharist; the doctrine is based on I Corinthians 12

Charismatic Movement  From the Greek charisma = gift; Christians who believe that the manifestations of the Holy Spirit seen in the New Testament Church (miracles, prophecy, glossolalia) may also be experienced today. Charismatics, unlike Pentecostalists, usually stay in their existing denominations.

charity work  Work that is done voluntarily to help those in need

Christianity in action  Generally, the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the changing of lives through tangible help and leadership for identified needs; practical ways of expressing Christian love and concern

Church  The bringing together of Christians. Traditionally thought of as coming into being at Pentecost—the ‘birthday of the church’. It began as separate communities, inheriting the synagogue concept from the Jews. In time it came to be formalised into a collection of interconnected communities. At the same time it came to be the title given to each of the individual communities. The creeds speak of ‘One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.’ This emphasises its Divine origins, its indivisible nature, and its historical unbrokeness. There is the Church ‘militant’—its actual presence on earth—and the Church ‘triumphant’—the believers in heaven. There is the ‘visible’ church—those actually members of the church—and the ‘invisible’ church—those known only to God who in due time will be added to the church. Denominations are referred to as Churches, though strictly speaking this only applies to those denominations with a central structure, either episcopal or connexional. Baptists speak of a ‘union of Baptist churches’, there is also the ‘Congregational Union’, and the ‘Union of Welsh Independents’. In England and Scotland there is an ‘Established’ Church—the Church of England (Anglican), and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian). There are ‘house churches’, ‘black churches’, and many others. This merely serves to illustrate how impossible it is to define ‘church’. All one can do is provide examples of its particular use and application.
**One**

For the Church to be one with Christ it must first maintain unity with itself.

**Holy**

In the creeds, included alongside ‘catholic’ and ‘apostolic’, used to convey the belief that the Church is not a human creation, but God’s creation. It is established by separating out those who are of God from the world in order that they might be sanctified by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit so that, in time, the members of the Church are made holy. As such it is not limited as are other human institutions, but is universal, indivisible and in unbroken succession from its beginnings.

**Catholic**

See under Catholic above

**Apostolic**

Indicates that the church is to be understood as having been started immediately after Christ’s ascension, during the time of the apostles. It is used within the creeds alongside ‘holy’ and ‘catholic’ to indicate that the church is a body of people separated by God, universal and indivisible, in unbroken succession with these earliest Christian communities.

### Church structures

The way in which the Church is organised

### conversion

Turning from one religion to another—sometimes referred to as proselytisation—or from no religion to a particular religion.

### corporate nature

Of a kind that belongs to an united group of people

### creedal base

A basis in the historic creeds of Christianity

### denomination

The title given to various groups within the Christian Church, which, while they remain united as regards the basis of beliefs, differ in terms of detailed understanding of particular doctrines and practices. It is usually understood that there are three traditions within Christianity—Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or Reformed. Within each tradition there are various denominations, *e.g.* Church of England, Church in Wales, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal. There are also movements within the Church which claim to be either non-denominational or inter-denominational, *e.g.* charismatic, evangelical. Sometimes such movements become institutionalised to such an extent they are unrecognisable from denominations *e.g.* The Evangelical Movement of Wales.

### divine constitution

Set up by God

### Ebeling

Gerhard Ebeling (1912-2001), a disciple of Rudolf Bultmann and a prominent figure in the New Quest for the Historical Jesus

### ecclesiastical activity

Things that are done in church or in its name
ecstatic behaviour  Particular unnatural or non-natural behaviour manifest directly as a result of having been directed by the Holy Spirit, usually confirmed as such by the nature of the behaviour itself, e.g. speaking in tongues. Other religions will also point to similar types of behaviour patterns as a result of spiritual possession. Can also be ‘evil’—a product of alleged demon possession.

Ecumenical Movement  Developed in the 20th century, intended to bring the various denominations and traditions within the Christian Church together. Led to the establishment of the World Council of Churches, which does facilitate dialogue between the groups. Intention is to foster co-operative out-working of faith, whilst engaging in inter-denominational and inter-tradition discussions concerning those aspects of doctrine that caused division to be created. Can be seen at the local level where individual churches and congregations in a community will co-operate, and in some instances unite. The full participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the process has caused controversy for some, whilst being a great encouragement to others.

episcopal hierarchy  A system of clergy members one ranked above the other under a bishop

eternal life  What is said to be the state of existence enjoyed by any who has come to ‘know God as revealed in Jesus Christ’—John 17:1. Is it qualitative or quantitative? How do eternal and immortal relate? Does it necessarily imply post-mortem existence, or is it ‘merely’ a state of grace in this life?

evangelism  The preaching of the gospel to win converts

experience (religious)  The physical, psychological, emotional and intellectual effect of having been allegedly encountered by God. Not all so-called religious experiences are in fact religious experiences when investigated, but many claimed experiences do remain unexplainable according to rational criteria. By definition they tend to be unprovable, and therefore incapable of being established in terms of truth or fact.

fair trade  A market-based model of international trade which promotes a fair payment and good social and environmental standards in relation to a wide variety of exports from developing countries, with the aim of securing the producers’ self-sufficiency

faith community  A community of people who follow the same religion

Feminist Theology  A way of articulating theology that emerged from within the wider feminist movement that developed from the 1960s onwards. Just as a male oriented, male dominated society was being questioned by women, so was the Church and the doctrines that underpin the Church’s existence. Some feminist writers have concluded that Christianity is irredeemable while others have argued that it is capable of being changed. Questions asked include: those to do with gender presuppositions regarding God; the validity of the ordination of women; the confronting of hierarchies. Feminist theology might be thought of as one of a number of ‘liberating’ theologies serving to emancipate an otherwise oppressed group within society.
Fiorenza, Elisabeth

Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (b. 1938); a leading feminist theologian; her best-known book is *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*, 1984, which argues for the retrieval of the overlooked contribution of women in the early Christian Church.

fundamentalism

Unquestioned and unquestioning allegiance to a body of doctrine, the content of sacred texts, and/or the pronouncements of religious leaders. Not limited to Christianity, but within Christianity is usually linked to a belief in the literal truth of the biblical text.

gifts of the Spirit

Gifts that are supernaturally bestowed on Christians to strengthen the church. They are described in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4, and include prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, showing mercy, diverse tongues, interpretation of tongues.

God’s saving action

What God has done and is still doing to free humans from sin, sorrow, sickness, death, and the powers of evil.

Gutierrez

Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928); a Peruvian theologian, regarded as the founder of Liberation Theology, who has argued that true ‘liberation’ involves political and social freedom, the emancipation of the poor, and a liberation from selfishness and sin, which re-establishes a relationship with God. His work has been the subject of repeated papal scrutiny.

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.

incarnation

Becoming flesh; a word used to signify how God became human in the Person of Jesus.

interpreter of scripture

Someone or something that explains the Bible.

Jesus of history/historical Jesus

The Jesus who lived on earth twenty centuries ago and whose life and work is described in the New Testament, as opposed to the Christ proclaimed by the Christian Church.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Elizabeth</td>
<td>A feminist theologian; her book, <em>She who is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse</em>, 1992, emphasises the 'underdeveloped' feminine images of God, while her <em>Truly our Sister, A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints</em>, 2003, interprets Mary as a champion of the oppressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Käsemann</td>
<td>Ernst Käsemann (1906-1998), a Lutheran theologian, best-known for his involvement in the Second Quest for the Historical Jesus; he argued that what is historically reliable about Jesus is limited to the gospel material that is not plausible in a C1st Jewish or Christian context and is attested in more than one tradition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>The region of the Americas where languages derived from Latin (particularly Spanish and Portuguese), are primarily spoken, as opposed to that where English predominates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lay / laity</td>
<td>Those members who have not been ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament (i.e. those who are not the clergy). Some denominations do not acknowledge such a clergy/laity distinction, concentrating on issues of function as opposed to office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberation Theology</td>
<td>Broad term covering a variety of particular developments in Christian theology, all of which are united by a common intention of challenging the political and theological status quo in order to 'liberate' those who are felt to be restricted by the existing structures. Its origins can be traced to Latin America in the 1960s within the Roman Catholic Church, though some Protestants were involved. It involved integrating a Marxist analysis with a Christian theological solution. It took the Exodus motif as a theological paradigm. This in turn was subsumed into a particular approach to Christology that emphasised solidarity in living and dying and liberation through resurrection. It draws on the stories of particular oppressed individuals, and uses them to confront structures. It challenges the church to confront society rather than be constrained by it. Other 'liberation' theologies have emerged in South Africa, amongst black Americans and some Asian peoples. It has also informed feminist theology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liturgical</td>
<td>Relating to liturgy, i.e. the order for an act of public worship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liturgical responsibilities</td>
<td>Having an obligation to lead an act of worship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logos</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mediator</td>
<td>A person who reconciles two parties who are at variance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messianic Inaugurator of the Kingdom of God</td>
<td>Jesus (the Messiah) as the one who initiates God's rule on earth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ministry

The regular and disciplined conduct of the Church in terms of those activities that are required of the Church if it is to be Church—essentially preaching the Word, administering the sacraments, giving pastoral care and leadership. The root idea is of serving. Can be used to describe the work of the ordained clergy or ‘ministers’, or may refer to the work of lay members (e.g. visiting the sick.). It conveys a sense of responsibility: the Church through appointed officers and designated functions is responsible for ensuring the fidelity of the people of God to the work to which they are called.

mission

The activity of the Church and its members, either corporately or individually, in sharing with the world the purposes of God as revealed in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is not just about converting people to Christianity; rather it is about living Christianly. It encourages the Church to be at the disposal of others, serving others rather than being self-serving.

moral guardian

Someone who protects or preserves one’s conformity to the rules of good conduct.

myth

A story involving supernatural persons or events. May purport to be factual, may be entirely fictional. What is important is what the story teaches about the supernatural entity in question. Some Bible stories are written in this way. This might be because their authors did not possess enough knowledge to realise that the events described could be explained in purely natural terms. However there is also a positive approach that is fully aware of any potential natural explanation for the events concerned but which still invokes supernatural involvement. The key fact is that the story or event is illustrative of a greater ‘truth’ and as such should not be read as an end in itself. Such myths are usually acted out in the rituals of the religious communities, those rituals providing the vehicle for the retelling of the stories, and their application to a contemporary audience.

mythological

Relating to myth, i.e. a story conveying truth through symbolism; often a story about God’s activity, or human encounter with the supernatural.

New Adam

Paul’s idea of Christ (I Corinthians 15:22, 45) restoring humankind to its original relationship with God that had been lost through Adam’s sin (Genesis 3).

New Moses

The Moses typology in the portrayal of Jesus, particularly in the birth narrative in Matthew.

new theologies

Recent presentation of fresh ideas to underpin Christian beliefs.

ordained

Conferred with authority as a Christian priest or minister.

ordination

The act of setting apart an individual to hold a particular office or exercise a particular function within the church. Traditionally focused on the ministry of word and sacrament but now may be applied to any office or function designated by the church as appropriate for ordination. The actual procedure for ordination...
will differ between the various traditions and denominations of the church, and it is not always that a person ordained within one tradition will be accepted as ‘properly’ ordained by other traditions. This will not necessarily reflect on the individual concerned but more the theological context within which the act of ordination was carried out.

Orthodox
Conforming to the Christian faith as represented in the creeds of the early Church, or pertaining to the Eastern Orthodox Church

overseas mission
Christian work carried out in foreign lands, especially in Third World countries, to establish schools, hospitals etc

pastoral
Relating to the duties of a Christian minister, particularly in leading and caring for the people

patriarchal structures
Social arrangements that defer to elderly men

Pentecostalism
A Christian movement which emphasises the gifts of the Holy Spirit, e.g. prophecy, healing and speaking in tongues

Person of Christ
See Christology

priesthood
Has its origins in the office of the Old Testament priests: those appointed to represent the people before God in terms of performing the rituals necessary to preserve the people in proper relationship with God. The Letter to the Hebrews sees Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Testament priesthood. He is one who is forever interceding before God on behalf of humankind. Therefore within the Christian Church, those who would be priests are representatives of the priestly function exercised by Christ. They represent the people before God and represent God before the people. They officiate at rituals; they pronounce forgiveness in the name of Christ. They preserve the mysteries of faith in and through which the continuing priestly work of Christ is evidenced. Some traditions will refer to clergy as priests; others see the priestly function as an element within a wider ministry, which also embraces the role of prophet and king, representing the three-fold ministry of Christ. The Old Testament saw prophet, priest and king as three separate distinct offices. In Christ they are brought together, and in the Church they continue to be represented by his people.

- of all believers
The Lutheran doctrine that all baptized Christians are ‘priests’ in the sight of God

Protestant
Relating to Protestantism (see below)

Protestantism
The movement within the church that developed as a consequence of the Reformation. It is an ‘umbrella’ term covering a variety of groups and organisations, e.g. the Luthernans (those who followed the teachings of Luther), the Reformed movement that inherited the teachings of Calvin, the Radicals or Anabaptists of Zurich. Subsequently Protestantism has become even more diffuse; e.g. the emergence of separatist, non-conformist and dissenting groups. The best
definition of Protestant might well be ‘not Roman Catholic, and not Orthodox’. However, it may be that some groups that would come under such a description would not ordinarily call themselves Protestant, e.g. Pentecostals. It may be that this term is now of little more than historical interest and that nothing is served by trying to use it in any generic sense.

quest for the historical Jesus
The attempt to use historical rather than religious methods to construct a verifiable biography of Jesus.

ritual specialist
One who is an authority on the prescribed procedure for an act of religious worship

Romero
Oscar Romero (1917-1980); Catholic Archbishop of San Salvador; he embraced a non-violent form of Liberation Theology, and was assassinated on the orders of the military on 24 March 1980 while celebrating Mass

Ruether, Rosemary Radford
(b. 1936); a distinguished feminist theologian who has argued for the recovery of God/ess as Primal Matrix, the womb in which all things are generated

salvation
Within Christian theology, the work of Christ in providing the means whereby humankind can be reconciled to God and enjoy the benefits of such a relationship rather than suffer the consequences of sin. This is salvation—being saved from sin, judgement, punishment and condemnation, all of which are seen to be represented in the crucifixion of Jesus. The crucifixion may be viewed as an act of atonement in which Jesus is substituted for sinful humanity, sacrificing himself on behalf of all. There are many and various ways in which this ‘drama’ of salvation has come to be understood within Christian history. This ‘drama’ is central to the worship of the Church and is represented in various ways through Baptism and Eucharist.

Saviour
One who saves, rescues or delivers; in Christian tradition, a title of God, and especially of Jesus

sign and instrument
The idea that the Church is both a prophetic sign pointing beyond itself to the fulfilment of the kingdom of God, and also an instrument in that its members are sent as Christ’s disciples to proclaim the Good News in word and deed, that the world may believe.

Sobrino
Jon Sobrino (b. 1938); a Basque Liberation Theologian and Jesuit priest who, having been sent to El Salvador in 1958, subsequently identified with the suffering of Third World dwellers. His works include Jesus the Liberator, 1991, Christ the Liberator, 1999, Christology at the Crossroads, 1978, The True Church and the Poor, 1984, and Spirituality of Liberation, 1990. He concentrates on the social context of Jesus’ life and his radical ministry, emphasising the hidden nature of his divinity. In March 2007 his theological positions were admonished by the Vatican which complained that he lays too much emphasis on the humanity of Jesus.
social worker

One who is employed to tend to the welfare and relations of human beings in a community

Suffering Servant

The prophecy of Second Isaiah, written during the Babylonian Exile, contains four passages known as the Songs of the Suffering Servant, which have been interpreted by the Christian Church as prophesies of the coming of Jesus, even though they were written many centuries before his birth; passages such as Isaiah 53:5 are taken to refer to the sufferings of Jesus and the absolution of sins. Jewish theologians believe the Servant to be the nation of Israel

symbolic

Serving as a symbol, i.e. something that stands for something else

Taizé

An international ecumenical community, founded in 1940 in Taizé in France by Brother Roger; since the 1950s thousands of young people from all over the world have visited Taizé to take part in the weekly meetings of prayer and meditation

theology/theological

Orderly presentation of the ideas which underpin the beliefs that individuals and/or groups might have about God. The New Testament description of the person and work of Christ, together with its various internal interpretative paradigms provides the basis for a Christian Theology. All religions will have their particular theologies. Within Christianity various different theologies can be identified, e.g. Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Pentecostalist, etc.

unity/uniformity

The state of being one (unity), as opposed to the state of being the same (uniformity)

Vatican II

The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, called by Pope John XXIII in 1962; by the time of its adjournment in 1965, it had issued 4 constitutions, 9 decrees and 3 declarations. Among its most important resolutions were the vernacularisation of the liturgy and stressing greater lay participation in the ritual, the decree on ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) and the setting up of an episcopal synod to help the Pope govern the Church

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

An international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18 January (Feast of St Peter) and 25 January (Feast of the Conversion of St Paul)

WCC

The World Council of Churches: a fellowship of 347 churches in more than 110 countries, representing over 560 million Christians, constituted in Amsterdam in 1948 to encourage co-operation and sharing, common witness and action by churches; its headquarters is in Geneva; the Roman Catholic Church is not a member, but sends representatives to its meetings and appoints 12 members to its Faith and Order Commission.
RS3 ER: Studies in Eastern Religions (A2)

SECTION A: Studies in Buddhism

Abidhamma pitaka The third section of the Pali Canon, containing learned commentaries on the teachings

Amaravati Theravada Monastery of the Thai Forest Tradition in Hertfordshire, run by the English Sangha Trust

Amida Buddha The Buddha of the Western Paradise, the Pure Land, and focus of devotion in Japanese Pure Land Buddhism

arhat Literally ‘worthy’. The highest state attainable in Theravada Buddhism.

bodhisattva ‘Enlightenment being’. In Mahayana Buddhism, a being who has postponed entry into enlightenment in order to assist others

Buddha Awakened one

buddha-nature In Mahayana Buddhism, the underlying state of all things, therefore the potential of all beings

Buddhist Society Founded in 1924 by Christmas Humphreys, the Society is a UK Charity to publish and make known the principles of Buddhism

celestial being Some buddhas and bodhisattvas are described as celestial beings. This means that they are not thought of as humans, but as beings that manifest in other realms. Buddhists believe that there are many other realms in addition to this human one

Chithurst Branch of Amaravati Monastery

compassion (Sanskrit karuna). One of the twin aspects of enlightenment (the other being wisdom).

daimoku The practice of chanting ‘namu myoho renge kyo’ (I take refuge in the Lotus Sutra) performed by Nichiren Buddhists

Dalai Lama The spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. The present Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the fourteenth. ‘Dalai’ means ocean of wisdom, and a lama is a teacher.

ekayana Literally ‘one way’. A theme of the Lotus Sutra which promotes the bodhisattva path to enlightenment

enlightened beings Celestial or human beings who are considered enlightened. Often enlightened beings are seen as demonstrating particular aspects of enlightenment, such as wisdom or compassion

enlightenment The goal of Buddhists, and the attainment of the Buddha under the bodhi tree. Synonymous with nirvana, though different traditions define it in different ways
enlightenment for all A principle expounded in the Lotus Sutra and recognized in many forms of Mahayana Buddhism that there are no monastic pre-requisites for the attainment of enlightenment

Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO) The WBO and the FWBO were in 1967 founded by an English Buddhist, Denis Lingwood, who took the name Sangharakshita. Sangharakshita’s vision was for a form of Buddhism suitable for westerners. As such, FWBO Buddhism is highly eclectic, and ‘lifestyle’ is seen as less important that commitment

gohonzon ‘Object of worship’: the inscription of the daimoku

Jodo Shinsu Founded in the 13th century by the Japanese monk Shinran, Jodo Shinshu is a form of Pure Land Buddhism which describes humanity as living in the era of mappo, an age in which it has become impossible to achieve enlightenment because humans are too corrupt and proud. Those who despair of their own ability to attain it, and who call on the Buddha Amida in a practice known as nembutsu, will be reborn in the Pure Land

koan A riddle or a puzzling question, used by a Zen teacher to encourage his or her disciples to abandon ordinary dualistic, discriminative thinking

lay Not ordained. In Theravada those Buddhists who have not become, or who are not currently, monks or nuns. In some forms of Mahayana Buddhism there is a monk/lay distinction, in others there is not.

Lotus Sutra One of the most important Mahayana scriptures, which teaches about the potential for Buddha-hood of all beings

Mahayana ‘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

mandala A symbolic representation of the universe which is visualised in Tibetan meditation. Mandalas are depicted in paintings, and are often ritually made using coloured powders that are erased at the end of the ritual

mantra A series of syllables used in Tibetan ritual. Usually a mantra contains the name of an enlightened being, and in repeating the mantra the meditator manifests the qualities of that enlightened being.

meditation This takes many different forms in Buddhism. It is usually the practice of training the mind to become calm and to experience reality as it really is. Some forms of Buddhism, such as Zen, see ordinary everyday life as a meditation. The Buddha himself meditated in order to become enlightened, and most Buddhists dedicate themselves to substantial periods of meditation every day.
mudra
Hand gestures with particular meanings. Statues of enlightened beings always have mudras, so that they can be identified and associated with a specific Buddhist idea. Mudras are often used in rituals in Tibetan Buddhism.

nembutsu
Reciting ‘Namu Amida Butsu’ – I take refuge in Amida Buddha. This is done spontaneously by Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, in desperation of attaining enlightenment through their own efforts, and relying on the grace of Amida to secure them rebirth in the Pure Land.

Nichiren
(1222-82) A Japanese Buddhist reformer who believed that the Lotus Sutra contained the true essence of Buddhism, and all other forms of Buddhism were misguided. He founded the Nichiren shu, from which developed the movements of Nichirenshoshu and Soka Gakkai International. He believed that the only workable practice was chanting the name of the Lotus Sutra ‘namu myoho renge kyo (the daimoku).

Nirvana
Literally ‘a blowing out’ (of the three fires of ‘greed, hatred and delusion’) Nirvana is conceptualised in many different ways by different schools of Buddhism. It is seen as beyond definition, although terms such as ‘bliss’, ‘the other shore’, ‘attainment’ or ‘goal’ are often used in reference to it.

Order of Buddhist Contemplatives
The Order of Buddhist Contemplatives is a religious order practising Serene Reflection Meditation. The order was founded in 1978 by Reverend Master Jiyu-Kennett (1924-1996). Its headquarters in the Britain is Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey in Northumberland.

Pali Canon
The Tipitaka (three baskets, made up of the Vinaya Pitaka, the Sutta Pitaka and the Abidhamma Pitaka); the corpus of scripture held to be authoritative by Theravada Buddhists.

Pali Suttas
Sutta means ‘thread’. The Pali Suttas are collections of discourses allegedly given by the Buddha.

precepts
The basic obligations undertaken by a Buddhist: five for lay people (eight on uposatha days) and ten for monks and nuns. There are also 227 rules in the patimokka.

Pure Land
The paradise said to have been ‘ripened and adorned’ by the Buddha Amida, and upon which all those who call his name are reborn, there to attain instant enlightenment.

refuge, going for/taking
The practice of reciting the formula: ‘I take refuge in the Buddha, I take refuge in the Dharma, I take refuge in the Sangha’.

renunciation
Giving up one’s ties with family and community in order to follow a spiritual life. Also known in Buddhism as ‘Going Forth’.

samatha
Form of meditation designed to achieve mental tranquillity and the cessation of unwholesome mental states.
samsara  The round of birth, death and rebirth, driven by greed, hatred and delusion

Samye Ling  Centre for Tibetan Buddhism of the Kagyu lineage in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

Sangha  The Buddhist community. Sometimes the word refers strictly to the monastic community, sometimes it refers to the wider Buddhist community.

Sanskrit Sutras and commentaries  The vast body of literature that Mahayana Buddhists hold as authoritative. Some groups emphasise particular Sutras. Important Sutras include: The Lotus Sutra, the Prajnaparamita Sutras, including the Heart Sutra and the Diamond Sutra, and the Sukhavati Sutras

skilful means  In Sankrit upaya kausalya. Skilful means is a theme in the Lotus Sutra. It refers to the ability of enlightened beings to use whatever resources are available to help people on the path to enlightenment. As such, the teachings are described as 'skilful means' i.e. not 'The Truth' in themselves, but techniques for achieving a purpose. They are merely fingers pointing at the moon

Soto Zen  One of the two main schools of Zen Buddhism, founded by Dogen (1200-53), and emphasising the practice of Zazen – sitting meditation.

Sutta Pitaka  The second section of the Pali Canon, containing the discourses of the Buddha

Theravada  ‘The Way of the Elders’—the last surviving school which uses only the Pali Canon. It is found predominantly in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand

Thich Nhat Hanh  Vietnamese meditation teacher and peace activist born 1926; he is author of many books and lives in a community called Plum Village in France. He founded the Order of Interbeing, which teaches mindfulness and Engaged Buddhism

Throssel Hole Priory  Monastery of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives in Northumberland

Tibetan Buddhism  The various forms of Buddhism (usually understood to be six schools) to have originated in Tibet (each based to a greater or lesser extent on previous traditions)

Vinaya Pitaka  The first section of the Pali Canon, containing the code of discipline for the Sangha

Vipassana  ‘Insight meditation’ – a form of meditation which seeks insight into the three marks of existence

Wisdom  Sanskrit prajna. One of the twin features of enlightenment, the other being compassion

zazen  ‘Sitting’ : a form of meditation practised by the Soto Zen school

Zen  Literally meditation – the form of Japanese Buddhism based on Chinese Ch’an Buddhism. There are two main schools of Zen: Soto and Rinzai
### SECTION B: Studies in Hinduism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute</td>
<td>In some bhakti traditions Krishna is identified with the Absolute. This means he is thought of as Brahman, the Ultimate Truth, rather than as a manifestation of Brahman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allegorical</td>
<td>Narrative or picture designed to symbolise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aryan culture</td>
<td>The Aryans are believed to have been a people from central Asia who invaded or migrated into the Indus Valley in the early 2nd Millennium BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avatar</td>
<td>The appearance or manifestation 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhagavad Gita</td>
<td>Part of the Mahabharata, though it also stands alone. An important scripture in which Krishna teaches Arjuna the importance of dharma, karma yoga and the path of bhakti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhakti</td>
<td>Devotion. In bhakti traditions it is believed that the love of God is the path to liberation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhaktivedanta Manor</td>
<td>Headquarters of ISKCON in the UK. A stately home near Watford bought for ISKCON by George Harrison of the Beatles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caste</td>
<td>Hierarchical groupings within society. The castes (jatis) fit into the divinely ordained varna framework. Caste is preserved by rules governing marriage (endogamy) and eating and drinking (commensality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dharma</td>
<td>‘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. Their duties are defined by their class (varna) and stage in life (ashrama)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dowry suicide</td>
<td>A common occurrence in the past. Realising that the dowry imposed upon her parents at the time of her marriage would bankrupt them, a young woman would commit suicide in order to obviate the need for a dowry. Dowry practices are now illegal in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foeticide</td>
<td>The abortion of a foetus for reasons of its gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat/Gujarati</td>
<td>Gujarat is a state in India from which many of British Hindus originated. Gujarati is their language, but many of them speak other Indian languages, especially Hindi, as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hare Krishna</td>
<td>A nickname for ISKCON, given to the movement because members chant it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindutva</td>
<td>‘Hinduness’ (a word coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his 1923 pamphlet entitled Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?) is the term used to describe movements advocating Hindu nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indus Valley culture</strong></td>
<td>The way of life in the fertile region surrounding the Indus River in the West of India where some of the world’s earliest human settlements have been discovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infanticide</strong></td>
<td>The illegal practice of killing female babies. Females used to be perceived as a burden on their families because of the cost of dowries, and because it was considered better karma to have sons/to be male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)</strong></td>
<td>Hindu Vaishnava movement, founded in the USA in 1965 by AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. It follows the tradition of Caitanya, and aims for the state of permanent Krishna consciousness. Dancing and chanting the maha-mantra are important features of worship. It welcomes non-Indians who are willing to commit to its stringent rule and regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Karma yoga</strong></td>
<td>The practice of acting according to one’s dharma, without self-interest, and surrendering the fruits of action to God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Krishna</strong></td>
<td>One of the most popular of the Hindu gods; depicted in various ways: as the teacher of Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita, as the lover of the Gopis and Radha in the Bhagavata Purana. He is also widely celebrated as the eighth avatar of Vishnu. Depicted as blue (the colour of the infinite sky), often with a flute, and often with cows, he is the focus of much bhakti devotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Murti</strong></td>
<td>An image of a god or goddess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prabhupada</strong></td>
<td>AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabupada founded ISKCON in 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary source</strong></td>
<td>In the case of a general study of Hinduism, ‘primary sources’ would be the scriptures (Vedas, Epics and Puranas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renunciation</strong></td>
<td>Breaking ties with family and community and practicing austerities in order to seek liberation (moksha). This is sometimes done as the last ashrama or stage in life, the sannyasin stage, or at any time in life. Those who renounce before the sannyasin stage are known as sadhus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ritual purity</strong></td>
<td>This is not the same as physical cleanliness but requires the ritual bathing of the body of a worshipper, or of a murti. A person may be made ritually impure by eating food prepared by a member of a lower caste, menstruation and childbirth, contact with death, widowhood and so on. Different traditions of Hinduism have different emphases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sacrifice</strong></td>
<td>No longer widely practiced in Hinduism, but in the Vedic period sacrifice was a crucial ritual, which was seen to maintain cosmic order and to propitiate the gods. A common sacrifice would be of the plant soma, but many other substances were used, and rituals were extremely complicated and had to be followed precisely. Brahmins were in charge of sacrifice, and consequently had much power.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sati  Illegal since 1829, and infrequent, sati is the practice of widows burning themselves to death on the funeral pyres of their husbands. The practice was thought to gain the woman great merit, or even instant moksha, and it enabled her to avoid the stigma of outliving her husband, which was thought to be bad karma. Sati was forced on many widows. There has been no recorded instance of it since 1987

Savarkar  Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1883-1966) was an Indian politician and Independence activist who is credited with developing the Hindu nationalist political ideology Hindutva

shruti  ‘Heard’; a term applied to the Vedas: those scriptures that are believed to be revealed, and thus have the highest status amongst the corpus of Hindu scriptures

smriti  ‘Remembered’; a term applied to the Epics and the Puranas. These are scriptures which are important but do not have the same status as the shruti scriptures, at least in orthodox circles

stridharma  The dharma (in the sense of duty) for women

Swaminarayan Movement  A Gujarati movement with a significant membership for British Hindus. Originating in the early 19th century, the movement follows the teachings of Lord Swaminarayan, who is considered to be an avatar of Vishnu. The Swaminarayan movement open the largest temple in Europe in 1995 in Neasden, London

Upanishads  The section of the Vedas that deals with the philosophical principles underlying the practices documented in the Vedas. The most famous Upanishads, for example, the Chandogya or the Brihadaranyaka, speak of the inherent unity of atman and Brahman, and delineate a monist philosophy

Vaishnava bhakti  Devotion directed to Vishnu or his avatars

Vedas, Vedic  The Vedas are the revealed scriptures of Hinduism. Vedic is an adjective referring to anything to do with the culture and religion of the post-Aryan period. Vedic religion is also sometimes known as Brahmanism

sacrifice  Offerings made to deities. Usually the term denotes animals or food which is burnt
SECTION C: Studies in Sikhism

Adi Granth
The Sikh scriptures, usually referred to as the Guru Granth Sahib after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship on the book. The book, containing 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.

Bhai Gurdas
Sometimes described as the first Sikh historian, the Sikh who assisted Guru Arjan in authenticating the hymns of the previous Gurus and in compiling the Adi Granth.

caste
Sikhs reject the notion that humans are not equal. Although Indian Sikhs are aware of the caste into which they are born, a strict undertaking is made not to discriminate on the basis of caste.

Dasam Granth

granthi
The Sikh (male or female) who looks after the Guru Granth Sahib and reads from it.

gurdwara
Literally ‘Guru’s Gate’, or ‘Court of the Guru.’ Any room or building which houses a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib.

gurmukhi
‘From the mouth of the Guru’ – the script in which the Adi Granth is written, the creation of which is attributed to Guru Angad.

Guru Arjan
(1563-1606) The fifth of the Sikh Gurus and the first Sikh martyr. Arjan was famous for completing the work on the Golden Temple (Harimandir) and for installing a copy of the Adi Granth within. His reign was a golden period in Sikh history, until he made an unwise political alliance and was tortured and martyred.

Guru Gobind Singh
(1666-1708) The tenth Guru, noted for naming the Panth, and the granth as the Guru for the Sikhs after his death.

Guru Granth Sahib
The title given to the Adi Granth after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship upon the book.

Guru Nanak
(1469-1539) The first Guru and founder of Sikhism. Born a Hindu, he experienced a call to the court of God and was given a special mission. His teachings, as recorded in the Adi Granth, are the basis of Sikh theology.

Hinduism
One of the many religions of India.

Islam
A religion with a strong presence in India.

Japji
The opening of the Guru Granth Sahib; a hymn written by Guru Nanak used frequently in worship. The Japji commences with the Mul Mantra.
Khalistan
The notional homeland of the Sikhs

Khalsa
The 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 the defence of right

Langar
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.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh
1780-1839 Ruler of the Punjab prior to British rule

Miri
Temporal power. Sikhs believe that there is no distinction between the temporal and the spiritual (piri). The Guru Granth Sahib governs both

Mukti
Liberation from successive rebirths

Mul Mantra
The opening lines of the Japji at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib, and containing the essence of Sikh belief about God

Namdhari
A Sikh reform movement founded in the 19th century, which has a very strict lifestyle. It believes that Guru Gobind Singh made the Guru of their founder Ram Singh a Guru (ie rejects the idea that he brought the lineage of human gurus to a close)

Nirankari
A Sikh reform movement founded in the 19th Century by Baba Dayal Das, which rejected any Sikh teachings other than those of Guru Nanak (eg they reject the idea of the Khalsa)

Operation Bluestar
A military operation in 1984, undertaken at the command of Mrs Indira Gandhi, in which 554 Sikhs were killed. The action was taken against a Sikh agitator, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who had been stockpiling weapons and engaging in military activities against the Indian government. During Operation Blue Star, the Akal Takht was destroyed and the Golden Temple was severely damaged

Panth
‘Way’ – denotes the whole Sikh community

Partition
The act that cut the homeland of the Sikhs in half. When India became independent, and Pakistan for the Muslims was created out of the Western portion of India, the Punjab, which lay right across the divide, was cut in half. This meant that those Sikhs living in the fertile region of the Punjab which was now in Pakistan, had to leave. This led to communal rioting, and a great sense of injustice. The Muslims had been given self-rule in their own land. The Sikhs had been denied it.
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<thead>
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<td>piri</td>
<td>Spiritual power. Sikhs believe that there is no distinction between the temporal (miri) and the spiritual. The Guru Granth Sahib governs both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>political sovereignty</td>
<td>Self-determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>The Indian state from which most Sikhs come, and the region where the Gurus were based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahit Maryada</td>
<td>The Sikh code of discipline, approved in 1945, by the elected body the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahit Namas</td>
<td>A number of codes of discipline in use from the eighteenth century onwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raj</td>
<td>Literally ‘rule’. The Sikh Raj was when Sikhs had self-determination in the Punjab under Maharajah Ranjit Singh. The British Raj is when India was ruled by the British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranjit Singh</td>
<td>Ruler of the Punjab 17799-1839– the only period in which the Khalsa had sovereignty in the Punjab. After his death the kingdom was annexed by the British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>self-rule</td>
<td>Some Sikhs aspire to self-rule, that is, to have a Sikh government in the Sikh homeland or Khalistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singh Sabha</td>
<td>A 19th century reform movement that sought to promote Sikhism, Sikh education and to care for the running of the gurdwaras, during a period when Sikhism was under threat from Christian missionaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiritual</td>
<td>See piri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temporal</td>
<td>See miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turban</td>
<td>Cloth distinctively tied and used to cover kesh (uncut hair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaisakhi Massacre</td>
<td>In 1919 the British forces under the command of General Dyer surrounded and massacred 337 Sikh men, 41 Sikh boys and a baby. This massacre was provoked by a peaceful public meeting of pilgrims on their way to Amritsar, who had stopped to rest in Jallianwala Bagh, a walled garden. This massacre resulted in Sikhs no longer supporting British rule, and joining Mahatma Gandhi in calls for Indian Independence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION A: Studies in Islam

Abu Bakr

632-634: The second or third convert to Islam, who accompanied Muhammad on the hijrah. A’isha, Muhammad’s favourite wife (after Khadijah) was Abu Bakr’s daughter. He was chosen as successor by a small group of the Quraysh, in the absence of Ali.

Ahmed, Leila

Muslim scholar

al-Hallaj

Husayn ibn Mansur, famous Sufi (executed 992), was most famous of ecstatic/intoxicated mystics. His poetry used many images, including the moth and the flame. He is famous for stating ‘Ana al-Haqq’ (I am truth / God). Arrested and tortured for heresy, and after eight years executed, he accepted death saying, ‘Kill me … for in my death is life’

Ali

Ali, younger cousin of Muhammad, grew up in Muhammad’s home and married Muhammad’s daughter, Fatima. He was the first male convert. Ali carried the Muslim flag in conquering Makkah in 630, and acted as Muhammad’s representative in Madinah. All Muslim traditions honour Ali, as a pious and near perfect Muslim. Named ‘Commander of the Faithful’, a brave and charismatic warrior. To Shi’a Muslims Ali was imam, or spiritual leader, from the death of Muhammad until his assassination in 661, but to Sunni Muslims, he is the fourth Caliph 656-661. Father of Hasan and Husayn, martyred at Karbala. Ali is buried in Najaf, sacred to Shi’a Muslims.

Allah

lit: The God

ascetic

Person who practises severe self-discipline and abstains from pleasure for religious or spiritual reasons

Ashura

10th day of month of Muharram; 10 days of Shi’a mourning; this may include public processions, recitations and a re-enactment of Imam Husayn’s martyrdom at Karbala. Thousands make the pilgrimage to Husayn’s shrine at Karbala, where acts of self-flagellation and public mourning are portrayed.

assassination of Ali

Ali was killed by a Kharijite zealot in 661 for agreeing to arbitration with Mu’awiya

assimilate

To absorb people into a larger group

A’isha

Wife of Muhammad, daughter of Abu Bakr, a major hadith collector, died 678 CE

Caliph (Khalifah)

‘Successor’ of the prophet and head of the Muslim community

Caliphate

(632-1258 CE) Traditionally divided into three periods, the Rightly Guided Caliphs (632-661), the Umayyad empire (661-750) and the Abbasid empire (750-1258)
degrees of existence  Certain Sufi mystics believed in no distinction within existence (‘nothing exists except Allah’—Ibn Arabi), which led to accusations of pantheism. Another Sufi thinker, al-Hallaj, claimed blasphemously, ‘I am the Truth’, and was crucified for his belief.

democracy  A system of government by the whole population usually through elected representatives

divine light  Based on a famous verse in the Sura of Light (24:35), which encapsulates the theme of divine radiance ‘...Light upon light! God doth guide whom He will to His light.’

Divine Will  Shari’a

eccstatic mysticism  Sufi adherents who would emphasize love of God through ecstatic or enthusiastic expression. These experiences, which alter states of consciousness, would often express themselves in strange actions and shocking verbal outbursts.

fiqh  lit: ‘understanding’; is the science or discipline which tries to ascertain, interpret and apply God’s will (shari’a) as found in the Qur’an to all aspects of life—ritual, civil, criminal and public law. This is the science of law (jurisprudence).

five principles of law  Fard (wajib) - obligatory action; mandub - ‘commendable’ action; mubah - ‘permissible’ acts; makruh - ‘reprehensible’ action; haram - forbidden action according to the law.

fundamentalist Islam  The belief that the revitalisation of Islamic societies can come about only through a return to the fundamental principles and practices of Islam. Although regarded as a modern phenomenon, early examples are the Kharijite movement

God as the Beloved  Connected with Sufi Islam, an unique personal devotion towards God’s love

hadith  Sayings of the Prophet, the second source of authority for Muslims. According to its authority a hadith may be classed as sahih (sound), hasan (fair) or da’if (weak)

halal lifestyle  Muslim adherence to shari’a

Hasan  Al-Hasan, elder grandson of the Prophet, Ali and Fatima’s elder son. Shi’a Muslims believe that Ali, himself divinely designated imam, or spiritual leader, designated his elder grandson imam after him. He, though, remained politically inactive throughout his life

Hidden Imam  Muhammad al-Mahdi: Shi’a belief in the disappearance of the twelfth imam; he is alive on earth, while having connections with prophets of old as well as living ayatollahs; to return as Mahdi at the end of the world
Husayn
Al-Husayn, Ali’s second son, led a group of faithful believers against Yazid in Karbala. These events are considered crucial by Shi’a Muslims as the themes of suffering, denied justice and martyrdom surface in this re-enactment. The injustice suffered by Ali is mirrored in the events at Karbala. Husayn’s atoning death is seen within Shi’a theology much as Jesus’ death is seen by Christians.

iconography
Specifically at Karbala, Husayn’s image and images of the massacre at Karbala are graphically depicted in art form.

ideological
Beliefs set apart as an ideal.

ijithad
*lit:* ‘effort’; working out of Islamic principles by use of independent judgement, often used with qiyas, reasoning or analogy.

ijma
Consensus of legal opinion on a point of law determined explicitly by the Qur’an and the Sunna.

Imam
*lit:* ‘one who stands in front’, a leader in prayer, therefore, of Muslim community. Extended to include the legitimate successor of the Prophet as leader of Shi’ite Islam, see Imamate.

Imamate
The title of Muslim leaders within Shi’a tradition, related to the Prophet’s family through Ali, the first imam (spiritual leader).

Islam
*lit:* submission / peace.

Islamic mysticism
Sufi Islam.

Islamic state
Crucial to the understanding of the Islamic state is the role played by the shari’a and its validity in modern times. The central tenet of the Islamic state to some Muslim thinkers would be the shari’a, which is an all-embracing social order fit for the modern world.

Islamophobia
A fear of Islam, a new phenomenon that has developed in the light of recent terrorist activity by fundamentalist groups.

Ja’fari
Most prominent Shi’a law school. The main difference is their inclusion of not only the Sunna of the Prophet, but also that of Ali and the Imams. They also reject analogy and consensus as legal sources, since they regard the Imam as the supreme legal authority and interpreter.

jihad
*lit:* fight / struggle: to strive in the cause of Allah.

- greater
Effort or exertion in the cause of Allah, a personal quest or battle against temptation and evil.

- lesser
Effort or military force in the cause of God; ‘holy war’ to defend Islam against external aggression.

jurisprudence
The theory or philosophy of law, a legal system. See *fiqh*.
Karbala
City in Iraq, scene of Husayn’s martyrdom (see Husayn / Ashura)

Khadijah
Muhammad’s first wife

Kharijite
Muslim extremists, they combined religious puritanism and religious fundamentalism. They originated in the time of the caliphs Uthman and Ali, and were the first radical dissenters in Islam. They were very pious believers who interpreted the Qur’an and Sunna literally and absolutely. They divided the world into Muslim and non-Muslim (enemy of God). All true believers were obliged to fight (jihad) against the people of hell. They also were wholeheartedly egalitarian and maintained that any good Muslim could be the leader, even if he were a slave.

legal schools (madhabib)
The four great legal schools—Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi’i and Hanbali—as well as the most prominent Shi’a law school, Ja’fari.

madhabib
School of Islamic law; the four Sunni schools are Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi’i and Hanbali:

Hanafi
Named after Abu Hanifah (died 767 CE), one of the four great Sunni law schools. Strong in Iraq and Syria and also moved eastwards through Afghanistan to India (Arab Middle East and South Asia). This school stressed the importance of faith over works. ‘Confessing with the tongue, believing with the mind and knowing with the heart’. (A.J. Wensick, The Muslim Creed).

Maliki
Named after Abu ‘Abdallah Malik b. Anas (died 795 CE); one of the four great Sunni law schools. Strong in North, Central and West Africa.

Al-Shafi’i / Shafi’i
Named after Abu ‘Abdallah Muhammad b. Idris al-Shaf’i (died 820 CE), one of the four great Sunni law schools. Now found in East Africa, southern Arabia and Southeast Asia. Al-Shaf’i brought together the four classical roots of Islamic law—Qur’an, Sunna, qiyas and ijma.

Hanbali
Named after Ahmad b. Hanbal (died 855 CE), one of the four great Sunni law schools. Started in the cities of Baghdad and Damascus, but now confined as officially recognised in Saudi Arabia. They stressed the inclusion of faith in works. Faith is not merely the assent of the heart, but must be accompanied by the works of the heart, (the love of Allah and the Prophet).

madrasah
Islamic faith school

materialism
To consider material possessions and physical comfort to be superior to spiritual values

meditation
Religious contemplation

Mernissi
Muslim scholar

modernity
To change traditional beliefs in light of the modern world
Muhammad's successors: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali: 'the four Rightly Guided Caliphs'.

Mut'a: Shi'a temporary marriage, determined in advance. Any children born out of this union, in Shi'a terms, are legitimate. The Caliph 'Umar abolished it.

Mystical union: The Sufi goal, to experience a personal spiritual union with God.

Mystical tradition: Generally used to refer to the Sufi tradition.

Nation of Islam: Founded circa 1930 in Detroit (also known as Black Muslim). This organization developed by Elijah Muhammad 1897-1975 and proposed a separate black Muslim nation. It came to national prominence under Malcolm X who joined in 1946. A splinter group of this movement has recently undergone a revival under the leadership of Louis Farrakhan.

Qiyas: Reasoning by analogy in Islamic jurisprudence.

Qur'anic: From the Qur'an.

Rabi'a of Basra: Rabi'a al-Adawiyya, Sufi guide and teacher (died 801 CE), combined asceticism with a devotional love of God. She declined several offers of marriage and dedicated her life totally to God.

Ra'y: A judge's decision based upon his own discretion.

Rightly Guided: See Caliph / succession.

Risalah: Messengers of God.

Secular society: A society concerned with worldly affairs, not religious or spiritual.

Secularisation: A modern development which leaves behind traditional religious ideas in favour of secular and non-religious beliefs.

Sema: A Sufi holy dance / a religious practice by the whirling dervishes, in which believers dance in order to lose the ego and experience a spiritual union with God.

Shari'a: Lit: straight path; Islamic Law: The will of Allah, as found in the Qur'an and the Sunna of the Prophet; sacred way of Islam.

Shi'a: The party of Ali.

Sober mystics: An adherent who follows the path of self-denial and asceticism.

Succession: Abu Bakr was the first Caliph or successor to Muhammad, followed by 'Umar, 'Uthman, and then 'Ali; in mainstream Muslim thought these came to be known as the Rightly Guided Caliphs.

Sufi: Islamic mystic tradition, comes from the word 'wool', which referred to the garments worn by the early ascetics.
Sultanate

Muslim sovereign (sultan: one who possesses power). By the 15th century, the central caliphate was replaced by Muslim sultanates whose rule was based on military strength and religious legitimacy. The sultan saw his role as defender and protector of the faith.

Sunna

It is translated as the example or way of the Prophet, the perfect example of how a Muslim should live his/her life.

Sunni

(Custom or normative rule) one of the two main branches of Islam, has differences from Shi'a in its understanding of the Sunna and its acceptance of the first three caliphs.

tawhid

The doctrine of Allah's oneness

theology

The study of the nature of God and religious belief

Traitors of Islam

A title given to Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman by Shi’a Muslims, who believe that Ali was cheated of the Caliphate by his predecessors

Twelve Imams

The dynasty of twelve imams, descendants of Ali who are believed to be semi-divine, spiritual beings by Shi’a Muslims

Twelfth Imam

see Hidden Imam

ulama

(Singular 'alim = scholar) A group of religious scholars whose authority is based on their knowledge of scripture.

Umar

634-644: Abu Bakr appointed Umar Caliph on his deathbed. At one point a violent opponent of Muhammad, he became one of his strongest supporters. He was a highly successful Caliph, but led a simple, modest life. Under his rule, Islam expanded to include Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Iran, and defeated the Byzantine army. He established an effective administration to rule these new lands, and ordered benefits for serving soldiers. He was assassinated by a slave in 644, and on his deathbed appointed a body to select a new Caliph

Ummah

The worldwide community of Muslims

Uthman

644-656. Uthman was elected Caliph following the death of Umar, a pious Muslim but less adept at government. He appointed family members to prominent positions in the affairs of the state and thus created antagonism. The empire continued to expand into Libya and Tunisia. Specifically he is credited with establishing an authoritative version of the Qur’an: but this action also created controversy by a number of Hafiz (Muslims who have memorized the Qur’an). Egyptian rebels assassinated Uthman.

whirling dervishes

Sufi adherents / practitioners of the sema holy dance (see sema)
Section B: Studies in Judaism

Agadut Israel

‘Union of Israel’ is a world organisation of Orthodox Jewry. “The purpose of Agudat Israel is the solution of the respective tasks facing the Jewish collectivity in the spirit of the Torah.” (founding programme, Frankfurt am Main, 1912)

Amidah

lit: ‘standing’: a standing prayer, recited at synagogue. Originally it had 18 blessings (Ashkenazim: Shemoneh Esreh), it now has 19: praising God’s power, knowledge, forgiveness etc. It derives from the time of the first Temple, and this ancient prayer is recited first silently by the congregation, then aloud by the reader

Amos

Old Testament prophet circa 8th Cent BCE. A simple shepherd who prophesied in northern Israel, condemning social injustice and foretelling doom unless the people reformed

anti-Semitism

Hatred of Jews or prejudice against them

assimilate

To absorb people into a larger group

Baal Shem Tov

‘Master of the Good Name’, the title given to Israel ben Eliezer, (1698-1760), the founder of the Hasidic movement, (abbreviated to Besht).

Berkovitz

Holocaust theologian; Eliezer Berkovitz’s book Faith after the Holocaust (1973), his response, is largely based on the verse in Isaiah 45:15: God hiding his face

charismatic

Inspiring enthusiasm

cleaving

See devekut

coming-of-age

Bar Mitzvah / Bat Mitzvah

Conservative

A group within Jewry which occupies the middle ground between Orthodox and Reform Judaism

contemplative

Given to religious meditation

conversion

An act to convert to a religion. Within Judaism, there are two requirements: circumcision (for a male) and immersion in the ritual bath, mikveh. The applicant is normally interviewed by a Bet Din, court consisting of three rabbis, to test their sincerity and commitment to keep the Jewish precepts

covenant

A pact or contract between God and Israel. In the Bible, God establishes his covenant with Noah, a special covenant with Abraham, (Gen 15: 7-21); a further covenant with Moses on Sinai (Ex 19: 5; 24: 1-8)

devekut

‘Attachment to God’; ‘devotion’; describes having God permanently in the mind, or being with God. A concept found mainly in Hasidic writings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diaspora</td>
<td>All communities of Jews living outside Israel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>divine punishment</td>
<td>The traditional understanding of Jewish suffering was as a direct punishment from God for disobedience to the covenant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreyfus affair</td>
<td>The Dreyfus case: the trial and the public demand of 'Death to the Jew', which prompted Herzl to come to the conclusion that the only solution to the persecution of the Jews was the establishment of a Jewish homeland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein Sof</td>
<td>The term is sometimes taken in kabbala to refer to God's very essence; when more precisely used, it refers to God's infinite light, before the beginning of the creation process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emanation</td>
<td>Virtues emanating from a source: in Jewish mystical thought, the ten sefirot emanating from Ein Sof.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ethnic minority</td>
<td>A group apart from the majority population due to a cultural or religious background.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fackenheim</td>
<td>Emil Fackenheim: Holocaust theologian who argues for the commanding voice at Auschwitz: a 614th Commandment: to survive as Jews lest “we grant Hitler another posthumous victory”. He also suggests the notion of tikkun, God repairing the damage done in the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Zionist Congress</td>
<td>Was convened by Theodor Herzl and held in Basle in the summer of 1897 and was the foundation of the Zionist organisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>halakah (pl. halakhot)</td>
<td>Jewish law; comes from the root halakh, ‘to go’ or ‘to walk’; the halakah is concerned with Jewish law as a whole—the rules and regulations by which the Jew 'walks' through life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasidism</td>
<td>Ultra-Orthodox traditionalist movement, founded by Baal Shem Tov in 18th Century Poland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- hasid (pl. hasidim)</td>
<td>Member of Hasidism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herzl, Theodor</td>
<td>(1860—1904) Foremost founder of political Zionism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirsch</td>
<td>Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808—1888), German rabbi and religious thinker. Served as rabbi of traditional congregation of Frankfurt am Maim for 37 years and under his guidance this became the blueprint of his vision of Neo-Orthodox Judaism—or halakhic Judaism in harmony with the modern world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holocaust</td>
<td>A large-scale destruction by fire; also sacrifice wholly consumed by fire. Jews prefer the term Shoah to describe the European Genocide of 1933-1945.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holocaust theology</td>
<td>The responses of theologians to the ultimate question, ‘Where was God in the Holocaust?’</td>
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<tr>
<td>intermarriage</td>
<td>Jews marrying Gentiles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremiah</td>
<td>Old Testament prophet circa 627 BCE: Jeremiah sounds a note of hope to the people, God remembers them and the faith of their ancestors, and will restore the exiled people to their land in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish identity</td>
<td>See <em>matrilineal descent</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewry</td>
<td>The worldwide population of Jews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>Religion of the Jews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabbalah</td>
<td>Jewish mystical tradition developed in the 11th and 12th centuries, culminating in the <em>Zohar</em>, ‘Illumination’ or ‘Brightness’, the classical work of the Kabbalah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kosher</td>
<td><em>lit</em>: ‘fit’ or ‘suitable’; Most frequently it refers to the Jewish dietary laws, but can also refer to other matters: that which is done properly or well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Return</td>
<td>‘Every Jew has the right to immigrate to the country [Israel]’; the Knesset passed this law unanimously on July 5, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi, Primo</td>
<td>Born in Turin in 1919 and trained as a chemist. Arrested as a member of the anti-fascist resistance he was deported to Auschwitz. His autobiographical works: <em>Is This a Man</em> and <em>The Truce</em> are excellent examples of Holocaust testimony. He was a talented writer of novels, short stories and columns in the Italian press before his tragic death in 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liberalisation</td>
<td>Become less rigorous or strict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liturgical</td>
<td>The order of the daily, Shabbat and festival services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubavitch</td>
<td>The branch of the Habad tendency in Hasidism with many thousand followers all over the Jewish world. (Habad—the movement / tendency within Hasidism which places particular emphasis on the role of intellect)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matrilineal descent</td>
<td>In traditional Judaism, an individual is only considered Jewish if born of a Jewish woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybaum</td>
<td>Ignaz Maybaum; Holocaust theologian: his response to the holocaust is in defence of the traditional understanding of Jewish suffering, boldly declaring ‘Hitler, my servant’, cf. Nebuchadnezzar is seen as an instrument of God’s punishment. He sees the Holocaust as an event, which signalled the birth pangs of Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meditation</td>
<td>Religious contemplation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Messianic</td>
<td>The doctrine / belief that no Jewish thinker has given up entirely, the belief in the coming of ‘the anointed one’, who will usher in a new era for mankind, when all will worship the true God in peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitnagdim</td>
<td>‘Opponents’ or ‘protestants’, the traditionalists who opposed the ideas and practices of Hasidism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mitzrachi
Religious Zionist movement founded in 1902 whose special emphasis was ‘the land of Israel for the people of Israel in accordance with the Torah of Israel’

mysticism
Refers to a deep religious experience or direct and intense communion with God. The Kabbalah is often identified with Jewish mysticism.

non-orthodox
All denominations of Judaism that do not belong to the orthodox grouping within the religion

Orthodox
The branch within Judaism which accepts literally that the ‘Torah is from heaven’. Some within orthodoxy would prefer the term ‘Torah–true’ to describe their religious observance. A popular definition of an orthodox Jew is the Jew who obeys the rules laid down in the standard Code of Jewish Law (the Shulhan Arukh).

persecution
See anti-Semitism

Pittsburgh Platform
Adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the principal reform rabbinical organisation in 1889. It contains the basic statements of Reform in America

pogrom
Anti-Semitic riot, more specifically to organised attacks on Jews in Russia from 1880s

Potok, Chaim
Rabbi and author, born and educated in New York. His novels, The Promise, The Chosen and My Name is Asher Lev concentrate mainly on Hasidic communities in the USA

process of emanation
See Sefirot

Promised Land
Israel

prophets
Certain individuals inspired by God, which enabled them to see into the future and relay a message from the divine to their fellow human beings

rabbi
lit: ‘great man’ / ‘teacher’: teacher of Judaism, qualified to make decision in Jewish law

rebbe
A variation of ‘rabbi’, but used to distinguish a rabbi from the Hasidic guide / master also called a tzaddik (zaddik). His main function would be to teach the Torah and give decisions on Jewish law, but also a spiritual guide who would pray on his follower’s behalf

Reform
The movement that rose in the early 19th century in Germany with the aim of reinterpreting, reforming Judaism in the light of Western thought, values and culture

reparation
See tikkun
Rubenstein

Richard Rubenstein, Holocaust theologian: in *After Auschwitz* (1966) he argues that the traditional belief in a God acting in history is indefensible. He therefore, states that Jews are living in the time of "the death of God", which he reinterprets as a "holy nothingness"

secular society

A society concerned with worldly affairs, not religious or spiritual

sefirot

The powers of the godhead as taught by the Kabbalah. The doctrine states that the Ein Sof (The Infinite) produces, by a process of emanation, ten powers in which it (Ein Sof) becomes manifest. The ten sefirot are: crown; wisdom; understanding; loving kindness; power (judgement); beauty; victory; splendour; foundation; sovereignty

Shabbat observance

The commandment to keep the Shabbat is stated in the fourth commandment, in both versions of the Decalogue. The extent of strict observance to the halakhah depends on the branch within Judaism

Shema

Jewish declaration of faith: ‘Hear (shema) O Israel, the Lord our God , the Lord is One’ (Deut 6:4).

Song of Songs

Traditional thought connects the authorship with King Solomon. Rabbi Avika interpreted the book as a ‘Holy of Holies’; a portrayal of God’s love (the lover) towards the community of Israel (the beloved)

State of Israel

Founded on May 14th 1948 in reaction to the Jewish genocide in Europe. Population of about 7.2 million, majority Jews; Israel is the world’s only Jewish state

synagogue

lit: assembly: Jewish house of worship, and is given the Hebrew names *bet ha Knesset*, ‘house of assembly’; *bet ha midrash* ‘house of study’; and *bet ha tefillah*, ‘house of prayer’, which is a fair summary of its function within the Jewish community

Talmud

lit: ‘teaching’ or ‘study’: the work of collected scholars, as a running commentary to the Mishnah. There are two Talmuds: Palestinian and Babylonian; which digest and provide a guide on the Jewish Bible

tikkun

‘Reparation’ is the ‘raising’ of a Holy Spark back to its source and the reconciliation of two seeming opposites, either in ourselves or in the world. The mystics tried to mend the earthly rupture, which had made the Jew homeless, through special prayers, and rituals, which they regarded as mystical acts of tikkun. Through the application of tikkun the Laws of the Kabbalah are put into action. Emil Fackenheim borrows this word from Jewish mystics such as Joseph Caro to talk of healing the earthly rupture brought about by the holocaust. Through acts of tikkun, those who live after the holocaust are able to mend the wounds of the past.

Torah

lit: ‘the teaching’: is normally used to refer to the Pentateuch: but a wider meaning can include the whole of Jewish teaching, including the Bible and oral law
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<tr>
<td>Torah-exposition</td>
<td>Explanation of and commentary on the Torah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah-true</td>
<td>A more correct term to describe the Orthodox branch within Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tzaddik</td>
<td>Charismatic leader in Hasidism, see rebbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultra Orthodox</td>
<td>A branch to the right of traditional orthodox practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiesel</td>
<td>Elie Wiesel: author, theologian and holocaust survivor: his trilogy of books, most notably ‘Night’, is by far the most celebrated of holocaust literature, in which he discusses the relationship of God to his people in the depths of Auschwitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zionism</td>
<td>The desire to return to Zion, often seen in Jewish liturgy and celebration within festivals: e.g. Pesach. Focuses on the Covenant and the land of Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- political</td>
<td>Its main founder was Theodor Herzl, in ‘Der Judenstadt’, which was published in the aftermath of the Dreyfus Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- religious</td>
<td>See also: Mizrachi party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zionist Movement</td>
<td>The movement that started at the end of the 19th century with the aim of establishing a homeland for Jews in Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zohar</td>
<td>‘Illumination’ or ‘Brightness’, the classical work of the Kabbalah, which contains the revelations of the divine mysteries given to the 2nd century teacher Rabbi Simeon ben Yohai and his mystic circle. It is a unique and profound work famous for its mystical style and daring flights of the imagination</td>
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