

RS

GCSE

Key

Words

Paper 1 - The Study of Religions.

Christianity - Beliefs and Teachings

Catholic	A branch of Christianity, based on Rome and led by the Pope
Orthodox	A branch of Christianity mainly, but not entirely, practised in Eastern Europe
Protestant	A branch of Christianity, originally Protestants were called by that name because they protested against some of the practices of the Catholic Church
Denomination	A distinct group within the Christian faith, with its own organisation and traditions
God	The supreme being
Monotheistic	A religion that believes there is only one God
Holy	Separate and set apart for a special purpose by God
Omnipotent	Almighty, having unlimited power; a quality of God
Benevolent	All-loving, all-good; a quality of God
Justice	Bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law, or making up for wrong that has been committed.
Trinity	The belief that there are three persons in the One God, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit are separate, but are also one being
Holy Spirit	The third person of the Trinity whom Christians believe is the inspiring presence of God in the world
Son of God	A title used for Jesus, the second person of the Trinity; denotes the special relationship between Jesus and God the Father
Creation	The act by which God brought the universe into being
The Word	Term used at the beginning of John's gospel to refer to God the Son
Incarnation	Becoming flesh, taking human form
Resurrection	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rising from the dead.2. Jesus rising from the dead on Easter day, An event recorded in all 4 gospels and the central belief to Christianity
Blasphemy	A religious offence which includes claiming to be God
Crucifixion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Roman method of execution by which criminals were fixed to the cross2. The execution and death of Jesus on Good Friday
Afterlife	What Christians believe follows life on earth
Day of Judgement	A time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by God and rewarded or punished

Heaven	A state of eternal happiness in the presence of God; the place of eternal peace ruled over by God
Hell	The place of eternal suffering or the state of being without God
Purgatory	The intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to enter heaven
Satan	Name for the Devil - the power and source of evil
Sin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any action or thought that separates humans from God 2. Behaviour which is against Gods laws and wishes or against principals of morality
Original sin	An Augustine Christian doctrine that says that everyone is born with a built in urge to do bad things and to disobey God; an important doctrine within the Catholic Church
Salvation	Saving the soul deliverance from sin and admission to heaven brought about by Jesus
Grace	A quality of God which God shows to humans by providing love and support which they do not need to earn
Forgiveness	Showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
Atonement	Restoring the relationship between people and God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
Mass	Ceremony, also called Eucharist in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus is celebrated using bread and wine

Christianity -Practices

Worship	Acts of religious praise, honour or devotion
Liturgical worship	A church service that follows a set structure or ritual
Non-liturgical worship	A service that does not follow a set structured or ritual
Informal worship	A type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature
Private worship	When a believer praises or honours God on his or her own
Prayer	Communicating with God, either silently or through word of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or requests for God's help or guidance
Set prayers	Prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person, for example the Lord's prayer
Informal prayer	Prayer that is made up by an individual using his or her own words
Nonconformists	An English protestant who does not conform to the doctrines or practices of the established church of England
The Lord's prayer	The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus; also known as the 'Our Father'
Sacraments	Rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace, for Catholics, Anglicans and many Protestants, sacraments are 'outwards signs' of 'inward graces'
Baptism	The ritual through which people become members of the church; baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin
Protestant	A branch of Christianity, originally Protestants were called by the name because they protested against some of the practices of the Catholic Church; there are many Protestant denominations, but they agree on central belief that the bible is the only authority for Christians
Believers baptism	Initiation into the church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony rite and willing to live a Christian life
Infant baptism	The ritual through which babies and young children become members of the church, where promises are taken on their behalf by adults; the infant is freed from sin and introduced to the saving love of God and the support of the Christian community

Holy Communion (Eucharist)	A service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine; also called Eucharist; Mass; the Lords supper; the breaking of bread and the divine Liturgy
Eucharist	From a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'; a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine
Pilgrimage	A journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; pilgrimage is itself an act of worship and devotion
Festival	A day or period of celebration for religious reasons
Christmas	The day commemorating the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus; also the season of 12 days ending with the Epiphany (when Christians remember the visit of the wise men)
Easter	The religious seasons celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead; it starts on Easter day and finishes with the feast of Pentecost
Church	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The holy people of God, also called the Body of Christ, among whom Christ is present and active 2. A building in which Christians worship
Agape	A word used in the bible that describes selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love
Mission	The vocation or calling of a religious organisation or individual to go out into the world and spread their faith
The great commission	Jesus' instruction to his followers that they should spread his teachings to all the nations of the world
Missionary	A person sent on a religious mission, especially to promote Christianity in a foreign country through preaching or charitable work
Evangelism	Spreading the Christian gospels by public preaching or personal witness
Reconciliation	A sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, the restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down
Persecution	Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race, or political or religious beliefs

Islam - Beliefs and Teachings

Muslim	one who has submitted to the will of God and has accepted Islam
Islam	the name of the religion followed by Muslims; to surrender to the will of God, peace.
Allah	the Arabic name for God
Tawhid	the Oneness and unity of God
Monotheistic	a religion that believes there is only one God
Supremacy	supreme power or authority; a quality of God
Qur'an	the holy book revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril; God's final revelation to humankind
Sunnah	the teachings and deeds of Muhammad
Sunni	Muslims who believe in the successorship to Muhammad of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali
Shi'a (Shi'i)	Muslim who believe in the Immate, the successorship of Ali
Immanent	the idea that God is present in and involved with life on earth and in the universe; a quality of God
Transcendent	the idea that God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe ; a quality of God
Omnipotent	almighty, having unlimited power; a quality of God
Beneficent	benevolent, all-loving, all-good; a Quality of God
Merciful	the quality of God that shows compassion or forgiveness to humans, even though he has the power to punish them.
Fairness	the idea that God treats people fairly and impartially without favour or discrimination.
Justice (Adalat in Shi'a Islam)	the idea that God is just and fair and judges human actions, rewarding the good and punishing the bad.
Angels	spiritual beings believed to act as messengers of God
Day of Judgement	a time when the world will end and every soul will be judged by God, and either rewarded or punished.
Jibril	the Arabic name for Gabriel, the archangel who brought God's message to the prophets, particularly to Muhammad
Mika'il	the Arabic name for Michael, the archangel of mercy who rewards god deeds and provides nourishment to people
Predestination	the idea that God knows or determines everything that will happen in the universe.
Akhirah	everlasting life after death
Resurrection	rising from the dead or returning to life

Heaven	the state of eternal happiness in the presence of God; also called paradise
Hell	the state of total separation from God.
Prophet	a person who proclaims the message of God
Risalah	the belief that prophets are an important channel of communication between God and humans
Prophethood	when God makes someone a prophet to communicate his message to people
Iblis (Satan)	a spiritual being, created from fire, who was thrown out of paradise for refusing to bow to Adam.
Ka'aba	the black, cube-shaped building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah (Mecca); the holiest place in Islam
Id-ul-Adha	a Muslim festival that celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son God
Hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) that every Muslim should try to make at least once in their life
Caliph	a person considered to be a political and religious successor to the prophet Muhammad, and the leader of the Sunni Muslim community
Imam	1. A person who leads communal prayer; 2. (Imam) in Shi'a Islam, the title given to Ali and his successors.
Imamate	the divine appointment of the Imams.
Torah	The five books revealed by God to Moses
Psalms	a holy book revealed by God to David
Gospel	a holy book revealed by God to Jesus
Scrolls of Abraham	a holy book revealed by God to Abraham

Islam - Practices

The five pillars	the five most important duties for all Muslims: to believe, to pray, to give o charity, to fast and to go on pilgrimage.
The ten obligatory Acts	ten important duties for Shi'a Muslims, which include the Five Pillars
Shahadah	the Muslim declaration of faith
Salah	prayer with an in worship of God, performed under conditions set by the prophet Muhammad
Wudu	ritual washing before prayer
Mihrab	a niche in a wall that indicates the direction of Makkah
Qiblah wall	the wall in a mosque that contains the mihrab
Rak'ah	a sequence of movements in ritual prayer
Recitation	repeating a passage of text from memory
Prostration	kneeling with the forehead, nose, hands, knees, and toes touching the floor, in submission to God.
Jummah Prayer	a weekly communal prayer performed after midday on Friday, which includes a sermon.
Ramadan	the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, during which Muslims have to fast from dusk to sunset
Fasting	not eating or drinking for a certain length of time, usually for a religious reason
The night of power	(1) the night when the first revelation of the Qur'an was made to Muhammad (2) the festival that marks the start of God's revelation to Muhammad
Zakah	purification of wealth by giving 2.5% of savings each year to the poor
Sadaqah	good actions or voluntary payments that are undertaken for charitable reasons
Khums	a 20% tax paid by Shi'a Muslims on their excess income
Pilgrimage	a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; an act of worship and devotion
Hajj	the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (mecca) that every Muslim should try to make at least once in their life
Ka'aba	the black, cube-shapes building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah (Mecca); the holiest place in Islam
Hajji	someone who had completed Hajj
Jihad	a struggle against evil; this may be an inward, personal struggle or an outward, collective struggle

Greater jihad	the personal inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the teachings of their faith.
Lesser jihad	the outward struggle to defend one's faith, family and country from threat
Holy war	fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader
Id-ul-Fitr	a Muslim festival that celebrates the end of Ramadan
Id-ul-Adha	a Muslim festival that celebrates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son for God
Day of Ashura	a festival that is important for Shi'a Muslims in particular, who remember that battle of Karbala and death of Husayn on this day

Exam 2 - Thematic Studies

Theme A - Relationships and Families

Human Sexuality	How people express themselves as sexual beings
Heterosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex
Homosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the same sex
Sex before marriage	Sex between two single unmarried people
Sex outside marriage/ Adultery	Sex between two people where at least one of them is married to someone else; adultery; having an affair
Contraception	The methods used to prevent a pregnancy from taking place
Family Planning	Using contraception to control how many children couples have and when they have them
Marriage	A legal union between a man and a woman (in some countries including the UK, two people of the same sex) as partners in a relationship
Civil Partnership	Legal union of same sex couples
Same- Sex Marriage	Marriage between partners of the same sex
Cohabitation	A couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being married to one another
Divorce	Legal ending of a marriage
Remarriage	When someone married again while their former spouse (husband or wife) is still alive
Annulment	A Catholic Church ruling that a marriage was never valid
Family	A group of people who are related by blood, marriage and adoption
Nuclear Family	A couple and their dependent children regarded as a basic social unit
Stepfamily	A family that is formed on the remarriage of a divorced or widowed person and that includes a child or children
Same- sex partners	People of the same sex who are raising children together
Extended family	A family that extends beyond the nuclear family to include grandparents and other relatives as well
Polygamy	The practise or custom of having more than one wife at the same time

Bigamy	The offence in the UK of marrying someone while already married to another person
Procreation	Bringing babies into the world; producing offspring
Stability	Safety and security; a stable society is one in which people's rights are protected and they are able to live peaceful, productive lives without continuous and rapid change.
Protection of children	Keeping children safe from harm
Educating children in a faith	Bringing up children according to the religious beliefs of the parents
Gender equality	The idea that people should be given the same rights and opportunities regardless of whether they are male or female
Gender Prejudice	Unfairly judging someone before the facts are known; holding biased opinions about an individual or group based on their gender
Sexual stereotyping	Having a fixed general idea or image of how men and women will behave
Gender discrimination	To act against someone on the basis of their gender; discrimination is usually seen as wrong and may be against the law

Theme B - Religion and Life

Universe	All of time and space and its contents; includes planets, stars, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, the smallest subatomic particles and all matter and energy.
Big Bang	A massive expansion of space which set in motion the creation of the universe
Fundamentalist Christians	Christians who believe that the statements in the bible are literally true and believe there are certain basic beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith.
Liberals	Christians who believe that the Bible's authors were guided by God, but that not everything they wrote is a literal account of what actually happened.
Wonder	Marvelling at the complexity and beauty of the universe
Awe	A feeling of devout respect, mixed with fear or wonder
Responsibility	A duty to care for, or having control over something or someone.
Stewardship (Khalifah - Islam)	The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God
Dominion	Dominance or power over something; having charge of something or ruling over it
Environment	The natural world; the surroundings in which someone lives
Natural resources	Materials found nature - such as oil and trees- that can be used by people
Abuse	Misuse of the world and the environment
Sustainable development	Building and progress that try to reduce the impact on the natural world for future generations
Non renewable resources	Things the earth provides that will eventually run out as there is a limited amount of them; examples include oil, coal, gas and other minerals
Deforestation	The cutting down of large amounts of forest, usually because of business use
Renewable energy	Energy that comes from a source that does not run out, such as wind or the sun
Recycling	Reusing old products to make new ones
Pollution	Making something dirty and contaminated, especially the environment
Vegetarian	A person who does not eat meat or fish
Vegan	A person who does not eat animals or food produced by animals (such as eggs) a vegan tries not to use any products that have caused harm to animals (such a leather)

Evolution	The process by which living organism are thought or have developed and diversified from earlier forms of life during the history of earth
Adaption	A process of change where an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.
Sanctity of life	All life is holy as it is created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused
Quality of life	The general well being of a person, in relation to their health and happiness also the theory that the value of life depends upon how good or how satisfying it is
Euthanasia	The painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma
Active Euthanasia	Ending a life by deliberate action, such as giving a patient a lethal injection
Passive euthanasia	Allowing a terminally ill or incurable ill person to die by withdrawing or withholding medical treatment
Eternity	A state that comes after death and never ends
Abortion	The removal of a foetus from the womb to end a pregnancy before the child is born, usually before the foetus is 24 weeks old
Ensoulment 	The period from when a Muslim believe the foetus is given a soul
Barzakh 	An Arabic word meaning obstacle, hindrance, separation or barrier
Jannah (heaven) 	A state of eternal happiness in the presence of God; the place of eternal peace ruled over by God; in Islam also called paradise
Jahannam (hell) 	Eternal separation from God
Akhirah 	Everlasting life after death

Theme C - Do not revise

Theme D - Religion, Peace and Conflict

War	fighting between nations to resolve issues between them
Peace	An absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony
Justice	Bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed
Forgiveness	Showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
Reconciliation	A sacrament in the catholic church; also, when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement
Protest	An expression of disapproval, often in a public group
Violence	Using actions that threaten or harm others
Terrorism	The unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal
Greed	Selfish desire for something
Self-defence	Acting to prevent harm to yourself or others
Retaliation	Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you
Nuclear weapons	Weapons that work by a nuclear action; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people
Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons that can kill large numbers of people and / or cause great damage
Chemical weapons	Weapons that use chemical to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment
Biological weapons	Weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead o disease or death
Just war	A war which meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness; follows traditional Christian rules for a just war and is now accepted by all other religions
Holy war	Fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader
Pacifism	The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence
Pacifist	A person who follows pacifism
Peacemaker	A person who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it
Peacemaking	The action of trying to establish peace
Lesser jihad	The outward struggle to defend one's faith, family and country from threat



Theme E - Religion, Crime and Punishment

Crime	An offence which is punishable by law, for example stealing, murder
Punishment	Something legally done to somebody as a result of being found guilty of breaking the law
Evil	The opposite of good; a force or the personification of a negative power that is seen in many traditions as destructive and against God
Poverty	Being without money, food or other basic needs of life
Mental illness	A medical condition that affects a person's feelings, emotions or moods, and perhaps their ability to relate to others
Addiction	Physical or mental dependency on a substance or activity which is very difficult to overcome
Greed	Wanting to possess wealth, goods or items of value which are not needed
Hate crimes	Crimes, often including violence, that are usually targeted at a person because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender
Retribution	An aim of punishment - to get your own back; 'an eye for an eye'
Deterrence	An aim of punishment - to put people off committing crimes
Reformation	An aim of punishment - to change someone's behaviour for the better
Free will	The ability of people to make decisions for themselves without constraint
Prison	A secure building where offenders are kept for a period of time set by a judge
Corporal punishment	Punishment of an offender by causing them physical pain - now illegal in the UK
Community service	A way of punishing offenders by making them do unpaid work in the community
Forgiveness	Showing mercy, and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
Death penalty	Capital punishment; a form of punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for crimes committed
Sanctity of life	All life is holy as it is created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused
Intention	The plan that someone has before they act
Shari'ah law	Islamic law based on the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunnah



Principle of utility	Philosophical idea that an action is right if it promotes maximum happiness for the maximum number of people affected by it
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Theme F - Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Social Justice	Ensuring that society treats people fairly whether they are poor or wealthy and protects people's human rights
Human rights	The basic rights and freedoms to which all human beings should be entitled
Equality	The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities
Prejudice	Unfairly judging someone before the facts are known; holding biased opinions about an individual or group
Discrimination	Actions or behaviour that result from prejudice
Heterosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex
Homosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the same sex
Freedom of religion	The right to believe or practise whatever religion one chooses
Freedom of religious expression	The right to worship, preach and practise one's faith in whatever way one chooses.
Disability	A physical or mental impairment which has an adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities
Positive discrimination	Treating people more favourably because they have been discriminated against in the past or have a disability
Tithe	One tenth of annual produce or earnings
Poverty	Being without money, food or other basic needs of life (being poor)
Exploitation	Misuse of power or money to get others to do things for little or unfair reward
Human trafficking	The illegal movement of people, typically for the purpose of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation
Emergency aid	Also known as short-term aid; help given to communities in a time of disasters or crisis, e.g. food during a famine, shelter after an earthquake
Long-term aid	Assistance given to a poor country over a long period of time that has a lasting effect
Zakah 	Purification of wealth by giving 2.5% of savings each year to the poor
Sadaqah 	Good actions or voluntary payments that are undertaken for charitable reasons
Usury 	The act of loaning money with interest