

**LITERACY
ACROSS THE
CURRICULUM**

SUBJECT TERMINOLOGY FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES



The
Appleton
School

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CHRISTIANITY: GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
atonement	An action or series of actions – usually a sacrifice – by which guilt might be removed. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is a Jewish feast based on Leviticus 23:26ff. Appropriated by Christian theology as a way of understanding the significance of Jesus’ death (e.g. Hebrews 9:6ff).
Augustine	Early Christian theologian and philosopher (354-430).
baptism - adult/believer - infant	<p>The rite whereby a person is made a member of the church. From the Greek word baptizo, meaning to ‘dip’, ‘submerge’, or ‘cleanse’.</p> <p>The voluntary baptism of adults (usually aged 13+) who have declared belief in Jesus.</p> <p>The baptism of babies, normally in the belief that the ritual will remove latent original sin.</p>
Barth, Karl	Highly influential Reformed Protestant theologian (1886-1968).
birth narratives	Accounts in the gospels of Matthew and Luke of the conception and birth of Jesus of Nazareth.
Christmas	The annual celebration of Jesus’ birth.
Christus Victor theory	A view on atonement which states that Jesus' death defeated the power of evil, which had dominated humankind. The term comes from the title of Gustav Aulén's book, first published in 1931. Aulén writes in description of Christus Victor, "the work of Christ is first and foremost a victory over the powers which hold mankind in bondage: sin, death, and the devil." Jesus through his death, rescued or liberated humanity from the slavery of sin.
conscience	Moral sense of right and wrong; inner feeling as to goodness or otherwise.
consubstantiation	The doctrine (particularly in Lutheran belief) that the body and blood of Jesus Christ coexist with – but are not the same as – the bread and wine used in a celebration of the Eucharist.
Council of Trent	Ecumenical Roman Catholic council held in northern Italy between 1545 and 1563 in response to the Protestant Reformation. Famously defined the relationship between faith and works in justification and had lasting impact on Roman Catholic liturgy and practice.
Donatism	The term used to describe a particular North African Christian sect in the Roman province of Africa in the fourth and fifth centuries, whose beliefs regarding sacraments caused controversy.

Easter	The annual festival of Jesus' death and especially resurrection. A Christian appropriation of the Jewish Passover: Christ's death equated with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. Subsequently, Good Friday came to be celebrated separately; Easter then more usually becoming associated with resurrection.
Eastern Orthodox	That part of the Church that developed following the Great Schism of 1054. Its theology derives from the Eastern Fathers of the patristic period. The Eastern Orthodox Church may be further defined in terms of national identity e.g. Russian, Greek etc. but should not be confused with the Oriental Orthodox Churches, e.g. Armenian, Coptic, etc.

TERM	DEFINITION
Eucharist	One of the titles used to describe the rite of the Christian Church associated with the Last Supper that Jesus is said to have celebrated with his disciples, in which elements of bread and wine (usually) are shared among participants. From the Greek, <i>eucharisiteo</i> , to "give thanks". Also used generically to describe the rite, however celebrated. Also known as "communion" or 'Holy Communion'.
Fourth Lateran Council	Roman Catholic council held in 1215 and presided over by Pope Innocent III. Put forth the idea that, during the Eucharist, the bread and wine are "transubstantiated" into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
harmonisation	The attempt to reconcile two or more contradictory biblical accounts (or the editorial process within the biblical texts with the same goal).
impassibility	The doctrine that God does not experience emotions based on, or caused by, the actions of others (e.g. pleasure, pain, passion).
incarnation, doctrine of the	The belief within Christian theology that the second person of the Trinity – the eternal Son, became human in the man Jesus of Nazareth, through his being born of the Holy Spirit of the woman Mary.
justification - by faith alone - by works alone	Making people worthy before God. The idea that it is only belief in Jesus that makes people worthy before God. The idea that good acts make people worthy before God.

kenotic model	The term kenosis comes from the Greek verb 'kenōō', meaning "to make empty." The kenotic model seeks to explain an idea mentioned in Philippians 2, where Christ is seen as "emptying himself" to "take the form of a servant". Its main concern is to solve some of the difficulties arising from Jesus having both a divine nature and a human nature. One understanding of the kenotic model of the incarnation holds the view that Jesus, the Son, deliberately gave up or set aside some of his divine attributes (especially omniscience or omnipotence) as a part of the incarnation. Some kenotic models focus on the setting aside of Christ's own will so that he could fully show what it means to be wholly submitted to the Divine. The idea is also an indication of the importance of submission to God's will, and an indication of Jesus' ethic of sacrifice and servanthood.
kerygma	The initial and essential proclamation of the gospel (and/or Christian) message.
Luther, Martin	Author of the German Protestant Reformation (1483-1546).
memorialism	The belief that the Eucharist is no more than an act in memory of Jesus.
moral example theory	Also known as the moral influence theory. This theory of atonement suggests that Jesus' life and death primarily provide a moral example to humanity. They can inspire humankind to lift themselves out of sin and grow towards union with God. Christ did not die to satisfy any principle of divine justice. His death was designed to greatly impress humankind with a sense of God's love, hopefully resulting in a softening of their hearts and leading them to repentance. Thus, the Atonement is directed towards persuading humankind to right action.

TERM	DEFINITION
redaction criticism	In New Testament studies, a method of critical biblical scholarship in which the authors and editors of texts are viewed as creative interpreters of their source material (and the examination of the effects this may have on the text and its message).
resurrection	The means by which the dead return to life after death. Specifically, within Christianity, resurrection was believed to have been experienced by Jesus following his crucifixion. Understood by some Christians as the destiny for all or some human beings after death. The term can also be used in a more abstract sense to describe a mode of living experienced by Christians following conversion.

sacrament(s)	Sacred ceremonies which are believed to be means by which grace is conveyed to believers. The classic definition is 'an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace'. Nearly all churches (except Quakers and the Salvation Army) use the two 'dominical' sacraments – baptism and holy communion i.e. those explicitly commanded by Jesus, but with much difference of practice and interpretation. Catholics, Orthodox, and some Anglicans count confirmation, ordination, marriage, anointing and confession as lesser sacraments.
substantial presence	The whole and entire presence of both the divine and human aspects of Jesus Christ.
substitution theory	An umbrella term for beliefs that Jesus' death was as a substitute for others. Two common forms include the belief that Jesus died as a sacrifice on behalf of the people to free humanity, and the belief that, since the debt is owed to the divine (God) by the people (human), only Jesus (divine and human) could act as a sacrifice by God for the sake of humanity.
transfinalization	The term used by the Catholic theologian Karl Rahner (in place of transubstantiation) to describe his understanding of the Eucharist. The belief that the purpose of the bread and wine is altered by the words of consecration.
transignification	The belief that, at the moment of consecration, the bread and wine of the Eucharist take on the real significance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ (but the body and blood are not physically present).
Western Christianity	Term used to describe the Latin church or the Catholic Church and a number of Protestant denominations (in contrast to the Eastern church).
Zwingli, Ulrich	Initial promoter and leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland (1484- 1531).

AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
Akhirah	The Islamic doctrine of belief in judgement and the afterlife.
Ashura	Tenth day of month of Muharram; usually associated with the 10 days of Shi'a mourning and the 'festival of Ashura'.
dhikr	Meditation, lit. 'remembrance', that associates actions with specific recited prayers or devotional phrases.
du'a	Lit. 'Cry (of the heart)'; personal supplication or private devotional

	prayer.
fard	A compulsory action or rule in Islam.
halal	Lit. 'blessed' referring to an action that is permissible in Islam.
haram	A forbidden act in Islam.
Hijrah	Migration or 'flight' of Muhammad and his followers from Makkah to Madinah.
Id-ul-Fitr	Celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends, which is also the first day of Shawal, the tenth Islamic month.
ijma	Consensus of scholars on matters of religion or sharia.
ijtihad	Academic, internal struggle or 'personal struggle (through deep thought)'; the process of reasoning that recognised scholars use, arriving at ra'y (personal judgement or discretion) to establish matters of Islamic teaching and behaviour based upon what is in the Qur'an and Hadith.
Imam	Muslim leader or cleric; usually head of a local community or masjid.
Islamophobia	Lit. 'fear of Islam' but is irrational and based in prejudice or ignorance.
Israfil	The angel that blows the trumpet to announce the final Day of Judgement in Islam.
Jahiliyya	'Age of ignorance' referring to pre-Islamic Arabia.
Jibril	Angel that appeared to Muhammad at Hira to bring the revelation from God.
Jummah	Friday communal prayers at the masjid.
makruh	A disliked or offensive act in Islam.
Malaikah	The Islamic doctrine of belief in angels.
masjid	Mosque (lit. 'place of prostration').
Mikail	The angel of mercy.
mujtahid	An Islamic scholar competent in interpreting and applying sharia.
muraqaba	A specialised form of Sufi meditation.

mustahab	A neutral action left to individual discretion, neither encouraged nor discouraged, sometimes recommended but not essential.
nabi	A prophet of God.

TERM	DEFINITION
nadir	A warner sent by God; term used to describe prophets and messengers also.
nafilah	All prayers other than the prescribed prayers fall into this category; sometimes referred to as nawafil.
niyat	Lit. ‘intention’; used in reference to performing an act for the sake of God or with the intention of offering the act as a form of devotion to God.
Qur’an	Holy Book of Islam.
Ramadan	Ninth month of the Islamic calendar used for fasting to commemorate the revelation of the Qur’an to Muhammad.
rasul	A messenger of God.
salah	Prayer; usually refers to the five prescribed daily prayers.
shahadah	Lit. ‘declaration’ or ‘testimony’; the first pillar of Islam, “I declare that there is one God* and Muhammad is the messenger of God”. * or “no God but God”
shirk	Unforgivable sin of associating partners with God.
Sura	A chapter in the Qur’an.
tahajjud	A voluntary and recommended night prayer performed by Muslims. It is not one of the five obligatory prayers.
tasbih	Meditational prayer (a form of dhikr or ‘meditation’) usually involving recitation.
tawhid	The Islamic teaching of absolute monotheism.
Ummah	The community of believers in Islam, sometimes referred to as ‘brotherhood’.
wird	Sufi practice of meditational prayer.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF JUDAISM: GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
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 read aloud by the reader.
Aseret ha-D'ibrot	Lit. 'Ten sayings' known as the Ten Commandments.
bet din	Lit. 'House of judgement' associated with the term synagogue.
bet k'neset	Lit. 'House of meeting' associated with the term synagogue.
bet midrash	Lit. 'House of study' associated with the term synagogue.
covenant	An agreement or contract.
Haggadah	Jewish text establishing the order of the Pesach Seder.
Hasidism	Ultra-Orthodox traditionalist movement, founded by Baal Shem Tov in 18th Century Poland.
Kabbalah	Jewish mystical tradition developed in the 11th and 12th centuries, culminating in the Zohar, 'Illumination' or 'Brightness', the classical work of the Kabbalah.
kavod	Used in the Hebrew scriptures to describe the 'glory of God'. The word used for the energy that is encountered in moments of awe like the revelation on Mt. Sinai trying to describe the experience of standing in the presence of God. Lit. 'heavy' or 'weighty', but often transferred as honour or glory it is used in the Hebrew Scriptures to describe the 'physical' vision of God's presence.
Kol Nidre	'All vows'; prayer recited on the evening of Yom Kippur.
machzor	Special prayer book for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
Messiah	The doctrine / belief that no Jewish thinker has given up entirely, 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.

mikveh	Cleansing pool sometimes found in a synagogue.
Minyan	A minimum of ten adult Jews (an adult Jew is any Jewish male who has passed his thirteenth birthday) required to form a Jewish congregation. The number ten was derived from the first verse of Psalm 82, which reads: "God stands in the congregation of God."
mitzvot	Commandments.
monotheism	Belief that there is only one God.
nefesh	A life/living being.
olam ha-ba	Lit. 'the world that is to come' describing the afterlife.
Orthodox	Jews who maintain traditional Jewish beliefs and practices, based on the Torah and the Talmud.

TERM	DEFINITION
Pesach	'Passover'; Spring festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt; one of the three biblical pilgrim festivals.
pikuach nefesh	The obligation to save a life; the Jewish notion of the 'sanctity of life'. pikuach nefesh is derived from the biblical verse, "Neither shall you stand by the blood of your neighbour" (Lev. 19:16). According to pikuach nefesh a person must do everything in their power to save the life of another.
Pittsburgh Platform	Adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the principal reform rabbinical organisation in 1889. It contains the basic statements of Reform Judaism in America.
Reform	Jews who question some Orthodox beliefs and traditions and follow a more liberal, modern form of Judaism.
Rosh Hashanah	'Head of the year'; Jewish New Year festival.
shekinah	English transliteration of a Hebrew noun meaning 'dwelling' or 'settling', and denotes the dwelling or settling of the divine presence of God and his cosmic glory.
Seder	The Seder is a ritual performed by Jewish families to remember the story of the liberation of their ancestors from slavery in ancient Egypt. A plate, loaded with symbolic food helps the retelling.

Sefer Torah	A handwritten copy of the Torah.
Shema	‘Hear’; a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which affirms belief in one God; used as a creed in daily prayers and placed in mezuzot and tefillah.
Shul	Lit. ‘School’ associated with the term synagogue.
tashlikh	Ritual washing as part Rosh Hashanah to cast away sins, usually performed in a river, sea or spring.
tefillah	Prayer.
Torah	Meaning ‘Instruction’ or ‘Teaching’. In a limited sense it can mean only the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. However, it can also mean the whole of Jewish teaching.
tzedakah	Giving or charity.
yad	A Jewish ritual pointer, popularly known as a Torah pointer, used by the reader to follow the text during the Torah reading from the parchment Torah scrolls.
yeshiva	Jewish institution that focuses on the study of traditional religious texts, primarily the Talmud and Torah study.
yetzer hara	The potential for humans to behave badly. Evil inclination.
yetzer hatov	The potential for humans to behave well. Good inclination.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
anatta (P) anatman (Skt)	‘No-self’. The view that there is nothing about the person which persists eternally without change.
anicca (P) anitya (Skt)	Impermanence, change – one of the three marks of existence.
archetype	A perfect example or model of something.
Arhat (Skt) Arahant (P)	‘Worthy One’ – the highest attainment in Theravada Buddhism

Bhumi (Skt)	Stage on the bodhisattva path
Bodhi Tree	The devotional name given to the pipal/banyan/fig tree under which tradition states Siddhartha became enlightened.
bodhisattva (Skt)	‘Enlightenment Being’. In the Mahayana, a being who has postponed entry into nirvana in order to assist others.
Brahmin (Skt)	The highest caste in Indian society. The Buddha criticised the caste system, and the power held by the Brahmins.
Buddha (P, Skt)	‘Enlightened or Awakened One’. This term can refer to the ‘historical Buddha’—Siddhartha Gautama (also known as Sakyamuni, Gotama). It can also mean the state to which Mahayana Buddhists aspire, or it can be used as a term describing the state of an infinite number of enlightened beings. An example: Amida Buddha.
caste (jati)	Subdivision within each varna in Indian traditions, usually linked to occupation.
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.
compassion	(Sanskrit <i>karuna</i>). One of the twin aspects of enlightenment (the other being wisdom).
connectedness	‘Pratitya samutpada’ - the way that things exist i.e. related or connected to each other.
dana (P)	‘Giving’. Lay people offer dana to the sangha, and in doing so gain merit.
dasa sila (P)	The ten precepts observed by novice nuns/monks and by those observing retreats in Buddhist monasteries.
dhamma (P) / dharma (Skt)	In Buddhism, one of the three jewels; the teachings; or the practice of truth. Not to be confused with the Hindu use of the term as duty or obligation.
doctrines	Teachings.
dukkha (P) / duhkha (Skt)	The human condition. There is no satisfactory equivalent in English and it is often translated as ‘unsatisfactoriness’, ‘suffering’, ‘frustration’. It is the first of the Four Noble Truths and the Third Mark of Existence.

TERM	DEFINITION
dukkha-dukkha (P)	Physical, emotional and mental pain.
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.
ethical principles	Rules of right conduct and morality used in making moral decisions.
Four Noble Truths	The Buddha's first teaching in a place known as the Deer Park in Isipatana to the five ascetics who had previously been his companions in the forest. They are the foundations of all the teachings the Buddha gave, a framework into which everything fits. They are the truth of suffering, the truth of the cause of suffering, the truth of the end of suffering, the truth of the path leading to the end of suffering.
historical buddha	Shakyamuni – the human founder of the religion - as differentiated from other buddhas.
historicity	Historical authenticity.
human condition	The characteristics of human life. The Buddha diagnosed the human condition as having three marks of existence
impermanence	The belief that nothing remains the same, is ever changing
Initiation	To grant somebody membership of a religion, organisation or society, traditionally by formal rites.
insubstantiality	anicca/anitya – conditionality, everything is impermanent because it is dependent
kamma (P) karma (Skt)	The relationship between intentions/actions and consequences (not to be confused with some Hindu senses of the term as the force which drives reincarnation).
khandha (P) skandha (Skt)	The five impermanent 'aggregates' which make up the appearance of a human being – matter, senses, perception, mental formations, consciousness
lakshanas	Marks/characteristics of existence/universal truths (dukkha, anicca and anatta).

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.
lay precepts	The five rules which members of the Sangha (lay and monks) accept as rules for living. They are not strict rules but guidelines that Buddhists should try to follow.
magga	'The way': the Noble Eightfold Path.

TERM	DEFINITION
Mahayana (Skt)	'The Greater Vehicle'. One of the two major forms of Buddhism, the other being Theravada. Mahayana tends to emphasise that nirvana can be available here and now, and the notion of the bodhisattva.
Mara	Demon associated with desire and death who attempted to distract the Buddha from his meditation under the Bodhi tree, but whom the Buddha defeated.
Maya	The Buddha's mother – who is said to have died seven days after his birth.
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.
merit	(Punna (P)/Punya (Skt) – positive karma.
metta bhavana	Lovingkindness meditation.
Middle Way	The rejection of the extremes of comfort and asceticism. The idea of a middle way is very important in Buddhism and is a philosophical idea as well as a way of life.
monastic precepts	In addition to the five precepts which are followed by monastic and lay Buddhists there are others which are only followed by monks (227) and nuns (311).
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.

myth	A traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice, belief or natural phenomenon.
nibbana (P) nirvana (Skt)	Literally ‘a blowing out’ (of the three fires of ‘greed, hatred and ignorance, delusion, attachment and egoism). The goal and highest attainment for Buddhists. 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. This term is often defined negatively to avoid the problem of attempting to define something that is ineffable. It is sometimes seen as the opposite of samsara and dukkha.
nirodha (P)	Cessation – the third of the four noble truths.
Noble Eightfold Path	The last of the Four Noble Truths. Right view, right resolution, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration. These provide the conditions for enlightenment.
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.
Parajikas (P)	‘defeats’ - four rules which if broken result in expulsion from the sangha.

TERM	DEFINITION
Paramita (skt)	‘perfections’ – characteristics of bodhisattva.
patimokkha (P)	The rules governing the conduct of monks and nuns.
pessimistic	A tendency to stress the adverse aspects of a situation or event or to expect the worst possible outcome.
Pratityasamutpada (Skt) / Paticcasamuppada (P)	Often translated as ‘Conditioned Co-production’, ‘Interdependent Origination’. A description of reality, denoting that all phenomena are causally linked.
precepts	The basic obligations undertaken by a Buddhist: five for lay people (eight on uposatha days) and ten for novice monks and nuns. There are also 227 rules in the patimokka.
Punna (p) Punya (Skt)	‘Merit’ – a store of good karma accruing from good deeds/ generosity/ religious practice.

reality	The state of being real. Buddhists believe that enlightenment allows a person to see the true reality of things.
rebirth	The idea that one life is caused by another. The doctrine that we pass through many lives in the cycle of samsara.
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'.
reincarnation	The Hindu idea that the essence of personal self-survives without our body continues after death and joins another body to live a new life. This process happens for an unimaginably long time until liberation is reached (moksha). Buddhism emphasises rebirth rather than reincarnation.
renunciation	Self-denial practised for religious reasons, such as giving up one's ties with family and community in order to follow a spiritual life. Also known in Buddhism as 'Going Forth'. The 'great renunciation' refers to the Buddha leaving the palace and his family to seek answers to his questions.
samatha (P, Skt)	Form of meditation designed to achieve mental tranquillity and the cessation of unwholesome mental activities.
Sangha (P, Skt)	Strictly, the community of monks and nuns, but in the wide sense, the whole Buddhist community. The third of the three jewels and three refuges.
sankhara-dukkha	The dukkha of conditioned states: everything is unsatisfactory because it is insubstantial.
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.
Self	A person's individual character. The Buddha rejected the idea of a permanent self.

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

tanha (P)	‘Thirst’—attachment to material things, people, false views and the notion of self, which leads to dukkha. The relationship between tanha and dukkha is stated in the Second Noble Truth.
Theravada (P)	‘The Way of the Elders’— the last surviving school which uses only the Pali Canon. It is found predominantly in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand.
Three Jewels	(triratna) The three pillars of Buddhist religion—Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. The three are as important as each other and are completely dependent on each other.
Tipitaka (P) / Tripitaka (Skt)	‘Three baskets’: The three sections of the Pali Canon – namely the Vinaya, Sutta and Abidhamma Pitakas.
Uposatha days	Days of renewed commitment to the dharma, often occurring on full-moon.
Vassa (P)	The three month ‘Rains Retreat’, in which monks remain in intense meditation, and lay people may join the sangha for a period.
vihara (P)	Monastery (Theravada).
Vinaya Pitaka	The first section of the Tipitaka (Pali Canon), containing the code of discipline for the Sangha.
viparinama- dukkha	Dukkha produced by change (the pain of attempting to hold on to things that change).
vipassana (P)	Insight meditation’—insight into the three marks of existence.
zazen (J)	‘Sitting’: a form of meditation practiced 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.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HINDUISM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
Agni	Sacrificial fire, deified as the god of fire in later Vedic religion.
ahimsa	Non-violence to any living thing – a key part of Gandhi’s thought, originating in Jainism.

Ambedkar	Dr Ambedkar, himself a Dalit, wanted to eradicate the varna system and was in conflict with Gandhi's views on the matter.
Arjuna	Pandava hero of the Mahabharata.
ashrama/asrama	'Stage in life'. There are four stages: the student stage, the householder stage, the 'forest-dweller' (retirement) stage and the renunciate stage.
atman	The eternal soul. Some Hindu traditions describe atman as being the same as Brahman.
avatar/avatara	The appearance of Vishnu on earth. Some traditions state that there are ten avatars of Vishnu, the most important of which were Rama and Krishna.
Bahujan Samaj Party	A national, political party in India inspired by the philosophy of Ambedkar which has historically been supported loyally by the Dalits.
Bhagavad Gita	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.
Bhagavata Purana	Hindu myth of creation.
bhakti yoga	Ecstatic loving-devotion to the divine.
Brahman	God. Sometimes described as the 'universal soul'. Some forms of Hinduism see Brahman as the substance of everything. Others see the many gods as representing aspects of his personality.
brahmanas	Priests, the highest varna.
catuvarnashramadharmama	Duty according to one's position in the varna and ashrama systems.
chela	Disciple of a guru.
dalits	'Oppressed'. Name given to those without a varna, previously known as untouchables or Harijans.
darshan	To look into the eyes of a murti and make contact with the divine.
dharma	'Law', 'duty', 'obligation'. In Hinduism there is a universal law (sanatana dharma) and each individual must play their role in this by performing their own appropriate duties.
Durga	Goddess associated with Mahadevi (the Great mother). Durga was created from the anger of the gods to slay the buffalo demon. She is depicted with ten arms, each wielding a weapon.

Durga Puja	Festival, especially in Bengal, celebrating Durga.
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TERM	DEFINITION
Dvaita Vedanta	Dvaita Vedanta – dual Vedanta, which teaches that atman and Brahman although they are of the same nature are distinct and separate.
grihasta	The householder ashrama.
Hindutva	‘Hinduness’ (a word coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his 1923 pamphlet entitled <i>Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?</i>) is the term used to describe movements advocating Hindu nationalism.
Holi	Spring festival in which effigies of a demoness are burned on bonfires, and the sport of Krishna and the Gopis is emulated with the throwing of water and coloured powder.
Holika	A demoness in Hindu Vedic scriptures who was burnt to death.
Jainism	One of the oldest Indian religions. Prescribes a path of non-injury towards all living beings.
jiva	Individual personal spirit.
karma	The theory of cause and effect, action and reaction.
karma yoga	The practice of acting according to one’s dharma, without self-interest, and surrendering the fruits of action to God.
Krishna/Krsna	One of the most popular 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.
kshatriya/ksatriya	The second of the varnas—the warriors and rulers.
Madhva	Primary thinker of Dvaita Vedanta.
Mahabharata	An epic poem of 100,000 verses, an account of the conflict between the Kaurava and the Pandava princes.
mandir	A Hindu temple.

Manu	Primary lawgiver of Hinduism, mythical composer of the Manusmirti – important text on how to live.
moksha/moksa	‘Release’, ‘liberation’—the fourth ‘artha’ or goal of Hinduism, the release from samsara.
monism	The belief that only one substance exists (i.e. Brahman), such as in Advaita Vedanta philosophy.
monotheism	The belief that there is only one God.
paramatman	Supreme soul or spirit.
prashad	Consuming food offered to God, as a means of receiving blessing.
puja	Worship. In Hinduism, much of the worship takes place in the home.

TERM	DEFINITION
Purusha sukta	Sacrifice of primal man; text from the Rig Veda describing the sacrifice through which the gods created the universe.
Rama	The hero of the epic the Ramayana. Husband and rescuer of Sita, famed for his adherence to dharma. Seen as the seventh avatar of Vishnu.
Ramayana	Epic which tells the story of Rama and Sita, their banishment from Ayodhya, Sita’s abduction by the ten-headed demon Ravana, Rama’s rescue of her with the assistance of the monkey-god Hanuman, the return to Ayodhya and the trials of Sita. The main themes of the epic are adherence to dharma, and the triumph of good over evil.
reincarnation	The belief that the atman transmigrates. Human incarnation is rare.
Rig Veda	Oldest veda, ‘Veda of mantras’; contains mantras and hymns for the yajnas.
Saguna Brahman	With qualities in Dvaita Vedanta.
samsara	‘Wandering’: the cycle of birth, death and rebirth as a consequence of karma.
sannyasin	Renouncer; someone who has renounced society and their identity to pursue spiritual gain. Usually at the end of life, though not necessarily.

santana dharma	Eternal law; understanding of Hinduism as a universal principle that all should obey.
sat, cit, ananda	‘being, consciousness, bliss’; the traditional attributes of Nirguna Brahman.
satyagraha	‘Truth force’ – one of the key ideas of Gandhi’s teaching.
Shaivism/Saivism	One of the major theistic traditions of Hinduism, worshipping Shiva or one of his forms.
Shiva/Siva	The third god of the Trimurti, the destroyer (a positive force which makes way for re-creation). Shiva is the god of paradox, both ascetic and fertile.
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.
shudra/sudra	The fourth of the varnas. Often translated as ‘serf’. Not twice-born (i.e. not wearers of the Sacred Thread).
Sita	Goddess of the furrow, wife of Rama. In the Ramayana her role is one of wifely virtue.
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.
Trimurti	Trinity of Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer.
Vaishnavism	One of the major monotheistic traditions, worshipping Vishnu or one of his avatars.
Vaishya/vaisya	The third of the four varnas; farmers and merchants.

TERM	DEFINITION
Vanaprastha	Retirement stage of life.
varna	‘Colour’: the four categories of Hindu society, a system dating from the Vedic period. Ritual purity is contingent upon varna. Consequently, each varna practices commensality and endogamy.
varnadharma	Duty according to one’s varna.

Varnasharmadharm	Duty according to varna and stage in life. This term is sometimes understood to be synonymous with Hinduism.
Vedas	The Vedas are the revealed scriptures of Hinduism.
Vishnu/Visnu	One of the deities of the Trimurti, the sustainer of the universe. Vishnu is commonly worshipped in the form of his avatars, of which there are traditionally ten.
Yama	God of death.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SIKHISM: GLOSSARY	
TERM	DEFINITION
5Ks	The five items worn by Sikhs as outward signs of membership of the Khalsa—kesh (uncut hair), kangha (comb), kaccha (underpants or shorts), kirpan (sword or sheath knife), kara (bracelet).
Adi Granth	The Sikh scriptures – usually referred to as the Guru Granth Sahib after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship on the book. The book contains 1,430 pages, is written in Gurmukhi script in a metrical style intended for singing. Contributors include Guru Nanak and some of the other Sikh Gurus, as well as Muslim and Hindu authors.
Amrit	This literally means ‘nectar’. It is composed of water and sugar stirred with a double edged sword. Initiation into Sikhism involves drinking amrit.
Baisakhi/Vaisakhi	Main Sikh festival, which remembers the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.
Bhagat Ramanand	Gurmukh, poet whose hymn is present in the Adi Granth.
Bhai Gurdas	A very influential Sikh religious figure. Original scribe of the Guru Granth Sahib.
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	A sacred book of writings attributed to Guru Gobind Singh.
Dharam	This term means 'righteousness'.

Dharam Yudh	A war in defence of righteousness.
Diwali	Festival at which the release of Guru Hargobind from Gwalior jail, and his good offices on behalf of the 52 Hindu Rajas, is remembered.
gurmukhi	‘From the mouth of the Guru’—the script attributed to Guru Angad, in which the Adi Granth is written, the creation of which is attributed to Guru Angad.
guru	Teacher, one who leads the disciple from darkness in to light. God is defined as the Guru (Sat Guru—True Teacher, Waheguru—Wonderful teacher). The ten human teachers of Sikhism are given the title of Guru, as is the book, the Guru Granth Sahib.
Guru Amar Das	The third of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism. Conferred equal status on men and women. He also strengthened the langar community kitchen system.
Guru Har Gobind	The sixth guru who introduced the concept of miri and piri.
Guru Granth Sahib	The title given to the Adi Granth after Guru Gobind Singh conferred Guruship upon the book.
Guru Nanak	First Guru and the founder of Sikhism.
Guru Panth	The Sikh community.

TERM	DEFINITION
Ik Onkar	‘One’. The opening word of the Mul Mantra (and therefore of the Guru Granth Sahib). The central Sikh notion of the oneness of God.
janam sakhis	Collection of hagiographic stories about Guru Nanak.
Kaccha	One of the five K’s: shorts, replacing the dhoti, enabling swift action in war, symbolising chastity and continence.
Kangha	One of the five Ks: comb, to keep kesh tidy.
karah prashad/prasad	A sweet made with sugar and ghee which is shared by the congregation in a Gurdwara to symbolise the sweetness of the grace of God.
karma	Sikh scriptures explain karma as whatever you plant you shall harvest.

Kartapur	City founded by Guru Nanak.
Kaur	Meaning 'princess' – mandatory last name for all female members of the khalsa.
kesh/kes	One of the Five Ks: uncut hair; to cut hair is to tamper with God's creation.
Khalsa	The collective body of all initiated Sikhs, inaugurated by Guru Gobind Singh.
Kirat Karo	One of the three primary pillars of Sikhism. Earning money righteously and honestly.
Lalla	A mystic of the Kashmiri Shaivite sect who wrote many devotional and mystic poems expressing her longing for the divine.
Langar	Free community kitchen – devotional meal eaten by congregation as part of the religious service. Represents Sikh belief in the equality of all humanity.
Mughal Empire	An empire that extended over large parts of the Indian subcontinent and Afghanistan, established and ruled by the Muslim Persianate.
Naam Japo	The term 'naam' refers to the various names given to God. 'Naam Japo' refers to the meditation, vocal singing of shabads or hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib or the chanting of the various names of God.
panj piare	Five Beloved Ones; the first five members of the Khalsa, dramatically initiated by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 after they swore they would give their lives for him.
panth	'Way'—denotes the whole Sikh community.
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.
rebirth	Similar to the Hindu concept of reincarnation – the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Liberation is release from this cycle and attainment of union with God.
Saguna and nirguna	God with and without attributes.
sangat	A community, a Sikh congregation.

TERM	DEFINITION
Sant	A spiritually realised Sikh.
Sant Sipahi	This literally means ‘saint soldier’. Guru Hargobind decreed that Sikhs should be devoted to the teaching of the Gurus and prepared to take up arms in self-defence and defence of the oppressed.
Saram Khand	Realm of spiritual endeavor.
Sarbat da bhalla	A Punjabi term meaning ‘welfare of all’. It reflects an important part of Sikh philosophy.
sewa	‘Service’ – work without the expectation of reward, in recognition that a service done for a fellow human being is service done to God. A typical example of sewa would be working in the langar.
Sheik Farid	Author of 134 hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib.
Singh	Derived from the Sanskrit word for ‘lion’ and mandatory name for all male members of the khalsa.
Sufism	The mystical dimension of Islam.
turban	Cloth distinctively tied and used to cover kesh (uncut hair).
Vaisakhi	Sikh festival coinciding with New Year.
vak lao	‘Taking advice’ – the Adi Granth is opened at random and a portion is read. Many Sikhs regard the verses as words from God which they will find helpful during the day.
Vand Chakko	One of the three main pillars of the teaching of Guru Nanak and means to share with others in the community.
Varan Bhai Gurdas	Name given to the forty chapters of writing by Bhai Gurdas which Guru Arjan referred to as the key to the Guru Granth Sahib.
Waheguru/Vahiguru	‘True Name’ – one of the names of God. Others include Sat Nam (True Name), Sat Guru (True Teacher), and Akal Purakh (Timeless One).

TERM	DEFINITION
ethics	This term comes from the Greek word <i>ethikos</i> , which in its root form (ethos) means custom or habit. For the Greeks it referred to the appropriate or customary way to behave in society. In modern times it refers to a branch of moral philosophy that aims to determine the meaning of right and wrong
ethical	Conforming to the accepted standards of social or professional behaviour.

THEME 1 : ETHICAL THOUGHT

Adams, Robert	American philosopher born in 1937, he created a modified version of the 'Divine Command Theory'.
arbitrariness problem	Criticism of the Divine Command Theory that basically states that if God commands morality then morality becomes purely arbitrary.
Aristotle	Ancient Greek Philosopher (384 BC – 322 BC), who was taught by Plato at the Academy. Eventually split from the philosophy of Plato and created his own philosophical ideas that have heavily influenced western philosophy.
Beatitudes	Jesus gave humanity the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.
Divine Command Theory	Meta-ethical theory that believes that morality is dependent upon God. Moral goodness occurs when moral agents are obedient to God's commands.
Ethical Egoism	Normative ethic that claims moral agents should do what is in their own self-interest. Therefore, an action is morally right if it maximises one's self-interest.
Euthyphro dilemma	Dilemma originally found in Plato's dialogue Euthyphro. Basically the dilemma asks is something good only because God commands it or because it is good in itself and God just enforces it.
moral virtues	A type of virtue distinguished by Aristotle. According to Aristotle moral virtues need to be practised and can be achieved by following the 'mean'.
pluralism objection	Basically states that the Divine Command Theory is unrealistic given the contradictory nature of God's commands as claimed by different religions.
Psychological Egoism	Psychological school of thought that believes people can only act in their own self-interest.
Stirner, Max	Max Stirner (born Johann Schmidt in 1806) was a German philosopher. He was one of the forerunners of egoism, nihilism and anarchism. Stirner's main work is 'The Ego and Its Own'.

Virtue	A type of ethical theory 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.
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THEME 2: AQUINAS' NATURAL LAW

TERM	DEFINITION
abortion	A medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy, normally before the foetus can survive independently.
applied ethics	The application of ethical theories to practical situations and moral dilemmas.
Aquinas	Thomas Aquinas, 13th century Dominican priest (1224-1274), commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. Famous works include Summa Theologica and Summa Contra Gentiles. Developed the ethical theory known as Natural Law or Natural Moral Law.
cardinal virtues	There are four cardinal virtues identified by reason: prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. Known as 'cardinal' virtues because the Latin term 'cardo' means 'hinge'. They are believed to form the fundamental basis of a moral life and were terms used both by Aristotle and Aquinas.
charity	Selfless, unconditional, and voluntary loving-kindness for others in response to God's love. One of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with faith and hope. Charity is a virtue included by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory. He believed that developing such virtues brought people closer to God's ideal of human nature.
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 the assistance of others, because of a critical medical condition.
faith	Steadfastness in belief in God; one of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with hope and charity; included by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory.
fortitude	Sometimes referred to as courage; to show endurance, and to possess the ability to confront fear and uncertainty or intimidation in order to achieve one's goal; one of the four cardinal virtues (see above).
four levels of law	Aquinas believed that there are four types of related law. These are: eternal law - God creates all that exists with a purpose and everything acts according to God's plan; divine law - divine law is God's eternal law given through scripture; natural law - some aspects of God's eternal law are also accessible via natural law which we can discover through our ability to reason, enabling us to distinguish between right and wrong. Aquinas believed that we cannot grasp all the details of eternal law until God reveals them to us upon our death; human

	law - society's legal systems that should be derived from natural and divine law.
interior/exterior acts	Terms used by Aquinas as part of his Natural Law theory to distinguish between the motive for an act and the act itself. The interior act is the motive/intention for performing an act. The exterior act is the actual act itself. In order for an act to be truly good, both the interior and exterior acts must be good.
justice	The treatment of people with equality and fairness, both generally and before the law.
hope	An expectation of and desire of receiving; refraining from despair; believing in the possibility of eternal life in heaven with God. One of the three theological virtues outlined in 1 Corinthians 13 by St Paul along with faith and charity.
Natural Law	Ethical theory based on the concept of a final cause or purpose, which determines everything's natural use or goal; a body of universal moral truths deduced from reason and experience; a view associated with Aristotle and developed by Aquinas.

TERM	DEFINITION
primary precepts	The five main purposes of humankind's existence (given by God) according to Aquinas' Natural Law theory: to worship God, to live in an ordered society, to reproduce, to learn and to defend the innocent. These are the absolute and deontological principles found within Aquinas' Natural Law theory. These principles should not be broken, regardless of the consequences.
prudence	The ability to judge rationally between actions and to recognise the most appropriate actions at a given time. One of the four cardinal virtues.
real/apparent goods	Aquinas believed that we should use our ability to reason to distinguish between what he called real and apparent goods. A real good is a something that helps us to become nearer to the ideal human nature that God had planned for us e.g. been a sociable person. An apparent good is a vice that takes us further away from the ideal human nature that God had planned e.g. taking drugs or alcohol in an attempt to become more sociable. Aquinas believed that no one knowingly pursues evil by choosing an apparent good, but sometimes we don't use our ability to reason properly and this error occurs.
revealed virtues	The three virtues of faith, hope and charity revealed or disclosed through Scripture (St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13). Christian theology teaches that these virtues differ from the cardinal virtues in that they cannot be obtained by human effort. A person can only receive them by being infused through divine grace into the person. Also often called theological virtues because they are directed by God.

secondary precepts	These are derived from the primary precepts. For example, the principle ‘to live in an ordered society’ leads to rules such as ‘return property to those from whom it was stolen.’ However, the secondary precepts have to be interpreted in the context of the situation and there is some flexibility in extreme cases. For example, if someone owned a gun that had been stolen from them, but intends to kill others with it upon its return then you would not return it as this is the rational thing to do.
temperance	Self-control or restraint, abstention, and moderation. The ability to control instincts and desires in order to be considered honourable. One of the four cardinal virtues.

THEME 3 : SITUATION ETHICS	
TERM	DEFINITION
agape	The ‘selfless love’ principle which is the foundation of Situation Ethics developed by Joseph Fletcher.
antinomianism	The idea that people are under no obligation to obey the laws of ethics or morality as presented by religious authorities. This approach is completely situationist. There are no rules, laws or principles which must be followed: the situation itself will provide the solution, which can be found through intuition.
conscience	A person’s moral sense of right and wrong; the part of a person that judges the morality of one's own actions.
Four Working Principles	One of the two sets of guiding principles of Situation Ethics (the other being the six fundamental principles) devised by Fletcher in order to help decide what the most loving action in any given situation would be. They are personalism, positivism, pragmatism and relativism.
Fletcher, Joseph	Joseph Fletcher, American professor (1905-1991) who formalised the theory known as Situation Ethics in his book Situation Ethics: The New Morality (1966). Fletcher was a leading academic involved in topics ranging from abortion to cloning. He was ordained as an Episcopalian priest, but later identified himself as an atheist. Fletcher said that we should always use the principle of agape (selfless love) and apply it to the situation we are dealing with. He said we should always act lovingly and that no two situations are identical. His theory was both relativistic and consequentialist.
homosexual relationship	A person being in a romantic and intimate (sometimes sexual) relationship with someone of the same sex.
legalism	An ethical approach based on prescribed rules by which people can make every moral decision. Legalism is often linked to the idea that obedience to a code of religious law is necessary in order for a person to gain eternal life.

nuclear deterrence	The belief that the possession of an arsenal of nuclear weapons defends a state from attack by another state, merely on the basis of a threat to deploy such weapons.
personalism	One of Fletcher's four working principles: people, not laws, must be put first in any given situation, and one must aim to achieve the most loving outcome. For example, a woman stealing food to feed her starving children would be acceptable according to this principle.
polyamorous relationship	This is the practice and acceptance of intimate relationships that are not exclusive with respect to other sexual relationships, with knowledge and consent of everyone involved.
positivism	One of Fletcher's four working principles: it means that one must accept that acting in the most loving way is the right thing to do without any rational proof that it is. Love provides justification, not proof, for an ethical decision. Agape is morally right without question.
pragmatism	One of Fletcher's four working principles, it means one must evaluate the situation and perform whatever action is practical/workable, motivated by love.
relativism	The view that there are no universal moral norms, but that an action should be judged right or wrong depending on the social, cultural and individual circumstances in each situation; one of Fletcher's four working principles.

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TERM	DEFINITION
Six Fundamental Principles	One of the two sets of guiding principles of Situation Ethics (the other being the four working principles) devised by Fletcher in order to help decide what the most loving action in any given situation would be. These six fundamental principles are: only one thing is intrinsically good, namely love, nothing else at all; only the principle of love provides a reasonable base by which to make judgements of right and wrong; love and justice are the same, for justice is love distributed, nothing else; love wills the good of others, regardless of feelings; a loving end justifies the means; love's decisions are made situationally, not prescriptively.

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THEME 4 : UTILITARIANISM

TERM	DEFINITION
Act Utilitarianism	A form of Utilitarianism associated with Bentham that treats each moral situation as unique and each 'act' is deemed to be right or wrong based on the consequences it produces. Bentham presumed that pleasure should be sought and pain avoided.

animal experimentation	Animal research is the use of non-human animals in experiments that seek to control the variables that affect the biological system under study.
Bentham, Jeremy	Jeremy Bentham, philosopher, economist and social reformer (1748-1832), developed the theory known as Act Utilitarianism. He developed the principle of utility or the greatest happiness principle to help people achieve happiness. It states that an action is right if it produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number. He also devised the hedonic calculus as a means of measuring pleasure.
happiness	The term used by Utilitarians to describe pleasure which is 'good'.
harm principle	Principle created by John Stuart Mill. He argued that the only reason power can be rightfully exercised over a member of a civilised community, against their will, is to prevent harm to others.
hedonic calculus	The criteria by which an Act Utilitarian attempts to measure pleasure and determine whether or not an action is right. Bentham's seven criteria are: certainty - how sure are you that the happiness will happen? duration - how long does the happiness last? extent - how many people does the happiness affect? intensity - how strong is the happiness? Purity – how free from pain is it? Remoteness - how close in time is the pleasure for those involved? Richness - how much more pleasure will this lead to?
higher pleasures	Term used by J.S. Mill to distinguish between different forms of happiness. Higher pleasures are superior pleasures and are pleasures of the mind: intellectual pursuits, spiritual reflection etc. They are superior to lower pleasures. He believed that the quality of happiness produced by an act was more important than the quantity.
lower pleasures	Term used by J.S. Mill to distinguish between different forms of happiness. Lower pleasures are inferior pleasures and are pleasures of the body, satisfying the bodily need for food, water, sleep, etc. He believed that the quality of happiness an act produced was more important than the quantity.
Mill, J.S.	John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), British philosopher, political economist, civil servant and Member of Parliament, was an influential liberal thinker of the 19th century. He was a Utilitarian, following an ethical theory developed by Jeremy Bentham (his mentor). His form of Utilitarianism was, however, very different from Bentham's in two main ways. Firstly, he believed that the quality of pleasure an act produced was more important than the quantity. Secondly, unlike Bentham who was an Act Utilitarian, he appears to have been a Rule Utilitarian.
nuclear deterrence	The belief that the possession of an arsenal of nuclear weapons defends a state from attack by another state, merely on the basis of a threat to deploy such weapons.
principle of utility	Bentham developed the principle of utility or the greatest happiness principle, which states that an action is right if it produces 'the greatest happiness for the greatest number.'
relativism	The view that there are no universal moral norms, but that an action should be judged right or wrong depending on the social, cultural and individual circumstances in each situation; one of Fletcher's four working principles.

TERM	DEFINITION
Rule Utilitarianism	Theory of Utilitarianism based on general principles or rules of behaviour; a view associated with J. S. Mill. Rule Utilitarians believe that by using the utilitarian principle – the greatest happiness for the greatest number – one can draw up general rules, based on past experiences, which would help to keep this principle. Rules like ‘respect the property of others’ or ‘do not steal’ would help people to keep the utilitarian principle, so should be obeyed.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION GLOSSARY	
THEME 1 : ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - INDUCTIVE	
TERM	DEFINITION
a posteriori	On the basis of experience; used of an argument, such as the cosmological argument, which is based on experience or empirical evidence.
aesthetic	Relating to beauty
anthropic argument	A teleological argument that claims that nature has been planned in advance for the needs of human beings.
Aquinas, Thomas St	St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) 13th Century Dominican priest, commonly regarded as the most influential philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic Church. The works for which he is best known are <i>Summa Theologica</i> , in which he summarized five arguments (The Five Ways) for the existence of God, and <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> .
argument	A set of statements which is such that one of them (the conclusion) is supported or implied by the others (the premises).
beings	Not just human beings but anything that has a property.
Classical theism	The belief in a personal deity, creator of everything that exists, who is distinct from that creation and is sustainer and preserver of the universe.
contingent beings	Beings that depend upon something else for their existence. They have the property that they need not be, or could have been different.

cosmological argument	Argument for the existence of God based on the existence of the universe; commonly associated with Aquinas' concepts of motion, causality and contingency.
Craig, William Lane	William Lane Craig (1949-), one of the proponents of the modern day Kalam aspect of the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God.
cumulative arguments	A collection of arguments which, when formed together, present a stronger case than when the arguments stand alone.
efficient cause	That which causes change and motion to start and stop. In many cases, this is simply the thing that brings something about.
empiricism	The view that the dominant foundation of knowledge is experience.
Ex nihilo	A Latin phrase meaning "out of nothing". Refers to the belief that God did not use any previously existing material when he created the world.
immanent	Existing or remaining; in theology it refers to God's involvement in creation.
inductive argument	Argument constructed on possibly true premises reaching a logically possible and persuasive conclusion.
infinite regression	A chain of causes or sequence of reasoning that can never come to an end.
Intelligent design	The view that an intelligent cause (which is not identified) accounts for certain features of the universe.

Kalam argument	A form of the cosmological argument that rests on the idea that the universe had a beginning in time.
Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), 17th/18th century German philosopher and mathematician, whose principle of sufficient reason supports the cosmological arguments for the existence of God.
motion	In Aquinas' First Way of the Cosmological argument, it refers to the process by which an object acquires a new form.
natural selection	A key mechanism of evolution. It is the principle by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved and the trait passed on to the next generation.

necessary beings	Beings which, if they exist, cannot not exist; beings which are not dependent on any other for their existence.
order and regularity	A key feature upon which the teleological argument for the existence of God rests – that both order and regularity are observable phenomena within the experiential universe, leading to inference that this is a deliberate feature of some intelligent being, responsible for the workings of the universe.
motion	In Aquinas’ First Way of the Cosmological argument, it refers to the process by which an object acquires a new form.
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Paley, William	William Paley (1743-1805), 18th century, English clergyman (Archdeacon of Carlisle) and philosopher, famed for his Watchmaker analogy, which forms part of the teleological argument for the existence of God.
principle of sufficient reason	There is some sort of explanation, known or unknown, for everything.
probability	The likelihood of something happening or being true.
purpose	The reason why something is in existence or being done.
qua	A Latin word meaning ‘according to’ or ‘relating to’.
teleological argument	Argument for the existence of God based on observation of design and purpose in the world.

TERM	DEFINITION
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Tennant, Fredrick, Robert	Fredrick Robert Tennant (1866-1957), 19th/20th Century English philosopher who developed forms of aesthetic arguments to infer the existence of an intelligent designer behind the Universe. Within his book, Philosophical Theology, he also advocated a form of the anthropic principle (although he did not use the term itself) to support his arguments for God's existence.
theistic	That which pertains to God.

THEME 2 : ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD - DEDUCTIVE	
TERM	DEFINITION
a priori	Without or prior to experience; used of an argument, such as the ontological argument, which is based on acquired knowledge independent of or prior to experience.
Anselm, St	St Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109), formulated the ontological argument which showed how the existence of God could be understood on the basis of reason alone.
deductive argument	An argument in which, if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true.
Descartes, René	René Descartes (1596-1650); promoted reason as most reliable basis for knowledge and analysis and used the method of doubt as a means to arrive at metaphysical truth.
essence	The essential nature of something.
existential	Relating to existence.
faith	A strong belief or trust in something of someone.
Gaunilo	Contemporary to St Anselm, criticized the ontological argument by the counter argument of the 'most perfect island'.
Kant, Immanuel	Immanuel Kant (1724-804); German philosopher and critic of the ontological argument who used the moral argument to contend for God's existence and life after death.
Malcolm, Norman	Norman Malcolm (1911-1990) argued for a form of the ontological argument based on defining God as an unlimited being and concluded that God exists necessarily.
necessary beings	Beings which, if they exist, cannot not exist; beings which are not dependent on any other for their existence.

omnipotence	The characteristic of being all-powerful. Some philosophers exclude the power to do the logically impossible.
omniscience	The characteristic of being all-knowing of all things actual and possible.
ontological argument	Argument for the existence of God based on the concept of the nature of being.
predicate	Something that adds to our concept of the subject.
proof	The evidence which supports the fact, idea or belief.
property	Nature or character
supremely perfect being	This relates to Anselm's concept of the necessary existence of the most perfect conceivable being, i.e. God, in his ontological argument.

THEME 3 : CHALLENGES TO RELIGIOUS BELIEF- THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING	
TERM	DEFINITION
Augustine St	St. Augustine (c354-430) - Early Christian Bishop of Hippo (North Africa). Early Church Father, converted to Christianity relatively late on in his life. Great intellectual force responsible for the formalisation of what is now accepted as Christian orthodoxy in terms of belief and ethics. Famous works include his <i>Confessions</i> and <i>The City of God</i> .
Augustinian-type theodicy	Argument based on genesis and the Fall. Evil is caused by created beings, not God. People's response to evil and God's rescue plan decides their destiny. Often referred to as soul-deciding.
Classical theism	The belief in a personal deity, creator of everything that exists, who is distinct from that creation and is sustainer and preserver of the universe.
epistemic distance	A distance of knowledge. A phrase used by John Hick in his development of Irenaeus's theodicy to refer to the distance of knowledge between God and humankind, so allows human beings to choose freely.
eschatological justification	Meaning that all things will be made clear or 'justified' in the end times or 'eschaton'.

evil	That which produces suffering; the moral opposite of good.
freewill	The ability to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.
Irenaean-type theodicy	The presence of evil is deliberate and helps people to grow and develop. Often referred to as soul-making.
Mackie, J. L.	J. L. Mackie (1917-1981), 20th Century Australian philosopher who famously formulated the inconsistent triad as an expression for the classical problem of evil.
moral evil	Events in which responsible actions by human beings cause suffering or harm e.g. war.
natural evil	Events caused by nature that cause suffering but over which human beings have little or no control e.g. earthquakes.
Paul, Gregory S.	Gregory S. Paul (1954-), 21 st century paleontologist and theological observer, who stated that the statistical weight of the amount of suffering experienced by children challenges the Christian understanding of a benevolent creator God.
privation	Deprivation or absence of something that ought to be there; term used in Augustinian theodicy – evil is seen as an absence of good.
Rowe, William	William Rowe (1931-2015), 20 th /21 st Century American philosopher who stated that the weight of evidence of suffering in the world proved that God could not exist.
second-order goods	Moral goods that result from a response to evil e.g. compassion
soul-deciding	A concept within the traditions of the Augustinian theodicy that describes how suffering helps humans to choose whether to do good (and choose the path God intended) or to do evil (and to reject the plan God had for humanity).

TERM	DEFINITION
soul-making	A concept within the traditions of the Irenaean theodicy that describes how suffering helps humans develop morally (from God's 'image' into his 'likeness' – c.f. Genesis 1:26)
theodicy	A justification of the righteousness of God, given the existence of evil.

THEME 4 : RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

TERM	DEFINITION
asceticism	Deliberate self-denial of bodily pleasures for the attainment of spiritual fulfilment.
charismatic	Christians of various groups who seek an ecstatic religious experience, often including speaking in tongues.
conversion	To change direction or to turn around.
description-related	Relating to descriptions of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
foundational belief	A belief that needs no further proof to support it.
Franks Davis, Caroline	Caroline Franks Davis - scholar who demonstrated how the authenticity of religious experiences could be challenged
immanent	Existing or remaining; in theology it refers to God's involvement in creation.
ineffable	Defies expression, unutterable, indescribable, indefinable.
James, William	William James (1842-1910) 19th/20th Century American psychologist renowned for investigations into religious experience and mysticism.
monism	The view that there is only one basic and fundamental reality.
mystical	Experiences or systematic meditation, which cause a heightened awareness of the divine or an ultimate reality.
noetic	Gaining special knowledge or insights that are unobtainable by the intellect alone; usually as a result of a mystical experience.
numinous	An experience of the holy; something wholly other than the natural world and beyond comprehension.
object-related	Relating to the object (that that was experienced) of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
Otto, Rudolf	Rudolf Otto (1869-1937) in his book <i>The Idea of the Holy</i> , defined the concept of the holy as that which is numinous.

passive	Where the recipient(s) of the mystical experience do not bring it about themselves – the actual moment is governed by a being or force external to the will of the recipient.
subject-related	Relating to the subject (recipient) of mystical experiences as a basis for challenging their authenticity.
subjective	Having its source within the mind
Sufism	The mystical tradition within Islam.
transcendent	Having existence outside the material universe.

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TERM	DEFINITION
transient	The experience may be short-lived, but the effects tend to last much longer than the experience itself.
veridical	When the object of the experience actually exists as a reality and not just in the imagination.
vision	Something seen other than by ordinary sight.

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