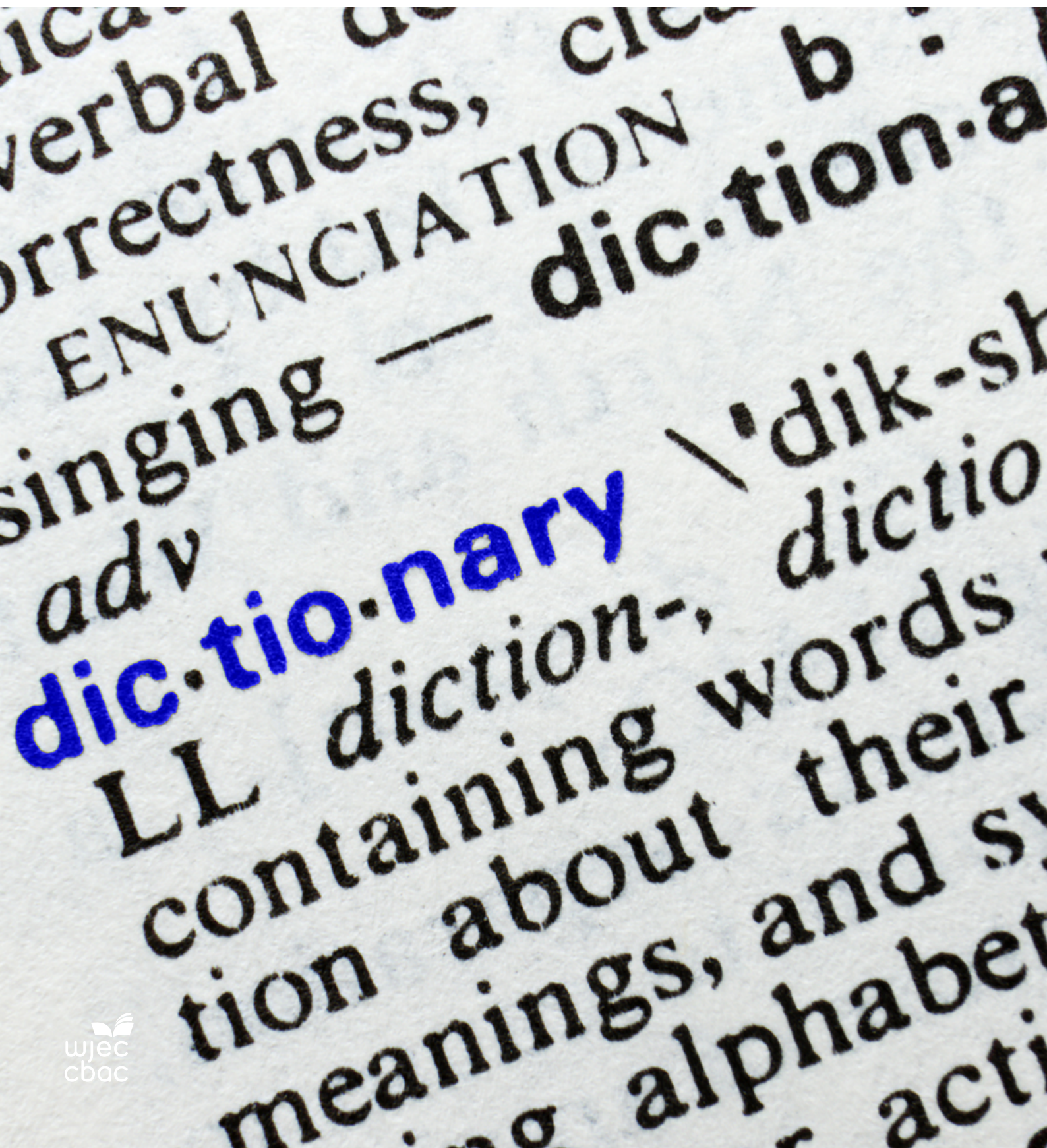


EDUQAS GCSE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES (ROUTE A & ROUTE B)
GLOSSARY OF KEY CONCEPTS



GCSE FULL COURSE ROUTE A

GLOSSARY OF KEY CONCEPTS

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

Theme 1: Relationships

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

Theme 2: Life and Death

**Awareness of non-religious perspectives will be assessed within this theme.*

Afterlife	life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death
environmental sustainability	ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species of animals, as well as plant life, to live well, now and in the future.+
Euthanasia	from Greek, <i>eu</i> 'good' + <i>thanatos</i> 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness.
Evolution	the process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier. Less complex forms during the history of the earth.
Abortion	when a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child.
Quality of life	the extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable
Sanctity of life	the belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status,
Soul	the spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as non-physical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife.

Theme 3: Good and Evil

Good/evil	<i>good</i> – that which is considered morally right, beneficial and to our advantage <i>evil</i> – that which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong
Forgiveness	to grant pardon for a wrongdoing; to give up resentment and the desire seek revenge against a wrongdoer
Free will	the ability to make choices voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is pre-determined
Justice	fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and opportunity
Morality	principles and standards determining which actions are right or wrong
Punishment	a penalty given to someone for a crime or wrong they have done
Sin	deliberate immoral action, breaking a religious or moral law
Suffering	pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be physical, emotional/psychological or spiritual.

Theme 4: Human Rights

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

Component 2: Christianity

Omnibenevolent	the state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God
Omnipotent	the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
Trinity	the three persons of God; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Incarnation	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
Atonement	the belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
Resurrection	the belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
Sacraments	an outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God. For example; Baptism, Eucharist.
Evangelism	preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith

Component 3: Study of a World Faith

Option 1: Buddhism

Anicca	the impermanent nature of all things
Anatta	no independent or permanent self
Dukkha	suffering/unsatisfactoriness
(S)kandhas	the five elements that make up a human being: form, sensation, perception, mental formations and consciousness
Samatha	calmness or breathing meditation
Pratitya	dependent origination; everything 'exists' only because of the 'existence' of other phenomena in an incredibly complex web of cause and effect covering time past, time present and time future.
Mettabhavana	the development of loving kindness, usually through meditation
Vipassana	'insight' meditation enabling the individual to see the true nature of things

Option 2: Hinduism

Ahimsa	non-injury to living things; the doctrine of non-violence
Brahman	the supreme power in the Universe; ultimate reality; God
Diwali	Hindu festival of Lights (sometimes Divali or Deepavali); this celebrates good conquering evil and invites the goddess Lakshmi into the home
Dharma	the religious and moral duty in relation to a person's status in Hindu society, 'considered by many, but not all, to be linked to caste
Moksha	release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; liberation; ultimate union with God
Murti	'form'; an image or statue of a God/Goddess; one or more of these are often the focal point of puja
Puja	prayer/worship of the gods; offerings. Offerings are given to the murti
Trimurti	the three major aspects of the Brahman, the supreme power; Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer

Option 3: Islam

Tawhid	'oneness' in reference to God and is the basic Muslim belief in the oneness of Allah
Prophethood	('risalah' in Arabic) is the term used of the messengers of Allah, beginning with Adam and ending with the Prophet Muhammad
Halal (permitted)	actions or things which are permitted within Islam, such as eating permitted foods
Haram (forbidden)	any actions or things which are forbidden within Islam, such as eating forbidden foods
Greater/lesser jihad	<p>the word jihad means 'to strive' and there are two forms of jihad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater jihad is the daily struggle and inner spiritual striving to live as a Muslim • lesser jihad is a physical struggle or 'holy war' in defense of Islam.
Mosque	('masjid' in Arabic), a 'place of prostration' for Muslims; it is a communal place of worship for a Muslim community
Sharia (straight path)	a way of life; Muslims believe Allah has set out a clear path for how Muslims should live. Shariah Law is the set of moral and religious rules that put the principles set out by the Qur'an and the Hadith into practice
Ummah	means 'community' and refers to the world wide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity

Option 4: Judaism

Synagogue	house of assembly; building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly
Shekinhah	the place where God's presence rests and can be felt
Shabbat	day of spiritual renewal and rest. Beginning at sunset on Friday and closing at nightfall on Saturday
Kosher	('fit' or 'proper') Foods that are permitted to be eaten according to Leviticus Chapter 11. It is also used to refer to the purity of ritual objects such as Torah scrolls
Torah	the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). Regarded as the holiest books of the Tenakh
Mitzvoh	the term has a mix of meanings. It is often used to refer to duties (such as the 613 in the Torah) and good deeds
Messiah	the anointed one who Jews believe will bring in a new era or age for humankind. This will include rebuilding the Temple and bringing in an age of universal peace
Covenant	a promise or agreement between two parties . Covenants were made between God with Noah, Abraham and Moses

Option 5: Sikhism

Amrit sanskar	the name given to the ceremony that initiates a person into the khalsa
Gurdwara	this is the name given to a Sikh place of worship; it means 'gateway to the Guru'
Gurpurbs	the celebrations of the anniversary of the birth or death of a Guru; gurpurbs is also a celebration of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604
Mool Mantra	means 'basic teaching' and are the first statements of each section of the Guru Granth Sahib. These underpin the Sikh religion and are the basic beliefs about the nature of God
Mukti	spiritual liberation from the cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth
Sangat	the holy congregation gathered in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib
Sewa	service to fellow human beings; acts of kindness or charity
Vaisakhi	the Sikh harvest festival that also marks the day in which Guru Gobind Singh formed the first Khalsa in 1699

GCSE SHORT COURSE ROUTE A

GLOSSARY OF KEY CONCEPTS

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Theme 1: Relationships

Adultery	voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse
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Theme 2: Life and Death

**Awareness of non-religious perspectives will be assessed within this theme.*

Afterlife	life after death; the belief that existence continues after physical death
environmental sustainability	ensuring that the demands placed on natural resources can be met without reducing capacity to allow all people and other species of animals, as well as plant life, to live well, now and in the future.+
Euthanasia	from Greek, <i>eu</i> 'good' + <i>thanatos</i> 'death'. Sometimes referred to as 'mercy killing'. The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness.
Evolution	the process by which different living creatures are believed to have developed from earlier. Less complex forms during the history of the earth.
Abortion	when a pregnancy is ended so that it does not result in the birth of a child.
Quality of life	the extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable
Sanctity of life	the belief that life is precious, or sacred. For many religious believers, only human life holds this special status,
Soul	the spiritual aspect of a being; that which connects someone to God. The soul is often regarded as non-physical and as living on after physical death, in an afterlife.

Component 2: Christianity

Omnibenevolent	the state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God
Omnipotent	the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
Trinity	the three persons of the Christian godhead; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Incarnation	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
Atonement	the belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
Resurrection	the belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
Salvation	a deliverance from sin and punishment as a result of Jesus being crucified on the cross
Judgement	the belief that God will judge if humans are worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven at the end of time.

Component 3 – Study of a World Faith

Option 1 – Buddhism

Anicca	the impermanent nature of all things
Anatta	no independent or permanent self
Dukkha	suffering/unsatisfactoriness
(S)kandhas	the five elements that make up a human being: form, sensation, perception, mental formations and consciousness
Mahayana	'Great Vehicle' (Buddhist Tradition)
Theravada	'the Way of the Elders' (Buddhist Tradition)
Bodhisattva	an 'enlightened being', who seeks enlightenment for others
Arhat	enlightened disciple, the fourth and highest stage of realisation recognised by the Theravada tradition. One whose mind is free from all greed, hatred and ignorance

Option 2 – Hinduism

Ahimsa	non-injury to living things; the doctrine of non-violence
Avatara	the incarnations of a deity, sometimes in human form; most commonly used is Vishnu, the Preserver God, who was incarnated through Krishna
Brahman	the supreme power in the Universe; ultimate reality; God
Dharma	the religious and moral duty in relation to a person's status in Hindu society, 'considered by many, but not all, to be linked to caste
Karma	the belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atman will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; one could gain positive and/or negative karma.
Moksha	release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; liberation; ultimate union with God
Murti	'form'; an image or statue of a God/Goddess; one or more of these are often the focal point of puja
Trimurti	the three major aspects of the Brahman, the supreme power; Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer

Option 3 – Islam

Tawhid	'oneness' in reference to God and is the basic Muslim belief in the oneness of Allah
Prophethood	('risalah' in Arabic) is the term used of the messengers of Allah, beginning with Adam and ending with the Prophet Muhammad
Allah	the Muslim name for God in the Arabic language
Immanence	the belief that Allah is always close by, pervading and sustaining the universe
Transcendence	the belief Allah is beyond all things, not limited by the rules of natural law or space or time
Angels	beings made by Allah to carry out his will and bring his divine message
Al Qadr	the Muslim term for 'predestination' which means Muslims believe God has set out the destiny of all living things
Akirah	the Muslim term for the belief in the Final Judgement and life after death

Option 4 – Judaism

Ten Commandments	ten duties given by God to Moses which form the basis of Jewish belief
Shekinhah	the place where God's presence rests and can be felt
Shema	a prayer declaring Jewish faith that is said by many Jews twice a day. The Shema is placed in the Mezuzah case and tefillin
Pikuach Nefesh	the obligation to save life whenever possible. For example giving medical treatment on Shabbat
Torah	the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). Regarded as the holiest books of the Tenakh
Mizvot	the term has a mix of meanings. It is often used to refer to duties (such as the 613 in the Torah) and good deeds
Messiah	the anointed one who Jews believe will bring in a new era or age for humankind. This will include rebuilding the Temple and bringing in an age of universal peace.
Covenant	a promise or agreement between two parties. Covenants were made between God with Noah, Abraham and Moses

Option 5 – Sikhism

Guru Granth Sahib	the sacred scripture of Sikhism that is regarded as the revealed Word of God
Langar	the free community kitchen found in all Gurdwaras. This is a cornerstone of the Sikh religion, showing equality, and was founded by Guru Nanak
Gurmukh	someone who has become God-centred rather than self-centred (manmukh)
Mool Mantra	means ‘basic teaching’ and are the first statements of each section of the Guru Granth Sahib. These underpin the Sikh religion and are the basic beliefs about the nature of God
Mukti	spiritual liberation from the cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth
Sangat	the holy congregation gathered in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib
Sewa	service to fellow human beings; acts of kindness or charity
Khalsa	the community of fully initiated Sikhs. They have undergone the initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanskar

GCSE ROUTE B

GLOSSARY OF KEY CONCEPTS

Component 1.1

Creation ex nihilo	creation out of nothing. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.
Evolution	the process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.
Imago Dei	in the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.
Inspiration	"God breathed" The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.
Omnipotence	the belief that God is all powerful.
Revelation	the word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes <i>himself</i> known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.
Stewardship	the duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.
Transcendence	existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.

Component 1.2

Conscience	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
Evil	the absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others which often results in suffering.
Free-will	the decision making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person is able to choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
Goodness	the quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.
Incarnation	"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
Natural Law	the moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws. The belief in natural law is the belief that the moral law is discoverable by every human being and is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.
Privation	the loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
Suffering	pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil).

Component 2.1

Death	the end of physical life. When the physical body ceases completely to function.
Eternal Life	the term used to refer to life in heaven after death. Also, the phrase Jesus uses to describe a state of living as God intends which leads to this life in heaven
Heaven	those who have accepted God's grace and forgiveness in this life will enjoy an eternal existence in God's presence in the next life. This face to face encounter with God is what we call "Heaven".
Hell	those who through the exercise of their own free will ultimately reject God's grace and forgiveness, will have chosen to live eternally outside of God's presence. This total lack of God for all eternity is what we call "Hell".
Judgement	at the end of our life, we will be faced with an ultimate choice to choose God or reject God. The decision we take leads to judgement and decides whether we 'go' to Heaven or Hell.
Magisterium	the teaching authority of the Church, exercised by the bishops in communion with the Pope. The magisterium is given grace by the Holy Spirit to faithfully interpret the Scriptures and Tradition.
Resurrection	the raising of the body to life again after death. Christians believe that Jesus has already experienced resurrection and that all people will experience it at the end of time.
Soul	the eternal part of a human being given at conception which lives on after the death of the body. Also a name for a human being's rational nature – their mind.

Component 2.2

Absolutism	the belief that there are certain actions that are always right or always wrong. The belief that moral laws exist eternally and are not just human inventions.
Eucharist	meaning “thanksgiving”. The name Catholics use to describe the rite where the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus and is received by the people. Also the name for the real presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Evangelisation	literally means spreading the “good news” which we translate as Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.
Forgiveness	the act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. Overlooking a person’s faults.
Punishment	the consequences of a wrong decision and a penalty imposed by a person in authority on the person who has committed wrongdoing.
Relativism	the belief that there is no moral law and that rules that govern what is right and wrong are human inventions and change from place to place and from age to age.
Salvation	the belief that through Jesus’ death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of life forever with God.
Sin	acting against the will or laws of God.