



**GCSE Religious Studies
Crucial Knowledge Glossary – Paper 2**

Theme A: relationships and families

Cohabitation

A couple living together without being married/in civil partnership.

Compassion

Sympathy and concern for the suffering of others.

Contraception

Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting or transmitting STIs (sexually transmitted infections).

Divorce

Legal ending of a marriage.

Extended family

Family unit comprising two parents and their children, but also grandparents, cousins etc.

Family planning

Planning when to have a family and how big a family to have by use of birth control practices and/or contraception.

Gender discrimination

Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender.

Gender equality

Belief that all genders have equal status and value, so discrimination against any is wrong.

Gender prejudice

Negative thoughts, feelings or beliefs about a person or group based on their gender.

Heterosexuality

Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the opposite gender.

Homosexuality

Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender.

Nuclear family

Family unit made up of two parents and their child(ren).



Polygamy

The practice of having multiple spouses (wives and/or husbands).

Procreation

Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions.

Remarriage

Marriage for the second time, after divorce ending an earlier marriage.

Vows

Promises made during a marriage ceremony.

Theme B: religion and life

Abortion

The deliberate ending of a pregnancy.

Afterlife

Beliefs about what happens to 'us' after our body has died; in many religions this relates to life after death or immortality in some form.

Animal experimentation

The use of animals for medical research and product testing.

Awe and Wonder

Sense of wonderment at nature; often linked to the feeling that God is involved/revealed through it.

Big Bang Theory

Scientific theory about the origins of the universe; belief that the universe began almost 14 billion years ago with a reaction of particles from a singularity followed by a process of inflation and expansion.

Death

The end of the physical, bodily life.

Dominion

Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world.

Environment

The world around us; this can be made up natural or artificial surroundings.

Euthanasia

Assisting with the ending of life for a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness; often known as assisted suicide.



Evolution

Scientific theory of the development of species which involves a process of natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Natural resources

Resources which are found in nature – fossil fuels (e.g. coal, oil, natural gas), plants etc.

Pollution

Contamination of an environment with harmful substances.

Quality of life

The standard of health, comfort and happiness/fulfilment experienced by a person or group.

Responsibility

Having a duty or obligation to act in a certain way.

Sanctity of life

Belief that life is sacred/special because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals.

Scientific

Knowledge based on what can be observed (e.g. regularities in nature) and experimentation.

Stewardship

Duty given by God to humankind to look after the created world, and all life within it.

Theme D: religion, peace and conflict

Conflict

Dispute between sides, can be between individuals, groups or nations.

Forgiveness

Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.

Holy War

War that is believed to be sanctioned by God.

Justice

Bringing fairness back to a situation.



Just War

Set of rules for fighting a war in a way believed to be justified and acceptable to God.

Nuclear deterrence

Having nuclear weapons with the aim of deterring/preventing other states attacking for fear of retaliation and nuclear war (possibly leading to Mutually Assured Destruction).

Nuclear weapons/war

A weapon of mass destruction which causes widespread damage and loss of life. Nuclear war would be a war fought using these weapons.

Pacifism

Belief that all violence is wrong, which then affects all behaviours.

Peace

The opposite of war; harmony between all in society.

Peace-making

Working to bring about peace and reconciliation.

Protest

A statement or action to express disagreement; can be an organised event to demonstrate disagreement with a policy or political action.

Reconciliation

Making up and rebuilding relationships between two groups/sides after disagreement.

Retaliation

To pay someone back for their harmful actions.

Terrorism

Use of violence and threats to intimidate others; used for political purposes to build fear in the ordinary population and to secure demands from Government.

Victims of war

Those who are harmed during a war, for example those killed, injured or left homeless.

Violence

Behaviour involving physical force which intends to hurt, kill or cause damage.

War

Armed conflict between two or more sides.



Weapons of Mass Destruction

Weapons which cause widespread, indiscriminate damage (e.g. nuclear, chemical, biological).

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

Addiction

Being addicted to/dependent on a particular substance; can be a cause of crime (e.g. stealing money to pay for illegal drugs).

Community service

Punishment involving the criminal doing a set number of hours of physical labour/work in their local community.

Corporal punishment

Punishment in which physical pain is inflicted on the criminal.

Crime

Action which breaks the law; can be against the person (e.g. murder), against property (e.g. vandalism), or against the state (e.g. treason).

Death penalty

Capital punishment; the execution of a criminal which is sanctioned by the state.

Deterrence

Aim of punishment; the threat of punishment as a way to put a person off committing crime (e.g. knowing they could go to prison if they steal).

Evil intentions

Having the desire to deliberately cause suffering or harm to another.

Forgiveness

Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.

Greed

Reason for committing crime – wanting or desiring something or more of something.

Hate crime

A crime committed because of prejudice views about a person or group.

Prison

Imprisonment is a form of punishment where a criminal is locked in a secure guarded building (prison) for a period of time.



Law

The rules a country demands its citizens follow, the breaking of which leads to punishment.

Mental illness

A medical condition that can cause changes to a person's behaviour; can be a cause of crime.

Murder

Unlawfully killing another person.

Poverty

The state of being without the things needed for a reasonable quality of life; can be a cause of crime.

Principle of utility

The concept of acting out of the greater good for the most people. (e.g. removing a dangerous criminal from society in order to protect others).

Reformation

Aim of punishment; helping the criminal see how and why their behaviour was wrong, so that their mindset changes for the better.

Retribution

Aim of punishment; getting the criminal back for their crimes.

Sanctity of life

Belief that life is sacred/special because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals.

Theft

Taking something without the owner's consent.

Unjust law

A legal requirement within a society that is believed to be unfair; a cause of crime if a person believes they cannot follow (or must act against) a law they believe is unjust.

Upbringing

The environment a child lives in, and the instructions they receive, while they are growing up; can be a cause of crime.