

GCSE Religious Studies Specification B Unit 3 *Religion and Morality*

Term	Definition
<i>absolute morality</i>	What is morally right and wrong applies to all circumstances, at all times.
<i>absolute poverty</i>	Not having the minimum income level required for the necessities of life, eg food, shelter, clothing.
<i>abuse</i>	Misuse of the world and the environment.
<i>active euthanasia</i>	The ending of a life by a deliberate action, such as by giving a patient a fatal injection.
<i>addictive</i>	Causing a physical or mental dependency on a substance that is very difficult to overcome.
<i>adoption</i>	The legal process where a person (child) is taken (adopted) into the family as a son or daughter.
<i>adultery</i>	Sex outside marriage where one or both of the couple are already married to someone else.
<i>ageism</i>	Prejudice and discrimination against the elderly.
<i>agnostic</i>	A person who believes it is not possible to be sure whether God exists or not.
<i>alcohol</i>	An addictive social drug found in beer, wine and spirits, etc.
<i>anabolic steroids</i>	A drug that helps to build muscle.
<i>apathy</i>	A person who has no interest in doing anything.
<i>artha</i>	Economic development – the second aim of life.
<i>artificial insemination</i>	Sperm medically inserted into the vagina to assist pregnancy.
<i>artificial insemination by donor (AID)</i>	When a woman is made pregnant by the sperm of a man other than her partner, but not through having sexual relations with him.
<i>artificial insemination by husband (AIH)</i>	When a woman is made pregnant by the sperm of her husband, but not through having sexual relations with him.
ASBO	An order issued by a magistrate aimed at preventing an individual from being in certain places at certain times.
<i>average life expectancy</i>	The average age at which people die.
<i>bereaved</i>	People who have suffered the loss of a loved one.
<i>Blasphemy</i>	Talk or behaviour that insults God or the gods.
<i>Blastocyst</i>	Fertilised ovum at about 5–7 days.
<i>blood transfusion</i>	When a patient is given extra blood as part of an operation.
<i>caffeine</i>	A mild legal stimulant found in coffee, chocolate, etc.
CAFOD	<i>Catholic Fund for Overseas Development</i> – a private charity established by the Bishops of England and Wales to bring aid to less economically developed countries.
<i>cannabis</i>	A class B drug which is usually smoked which some wish to be legalised.
<i>capital punishment</i>	Form of punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for crimes committed. The death penalty.
<i>care home</i>	A home for the elderly who are ill and need specialist medical treatment.
<i>celibacy</i>	1. Not having sex. 2. Decision to remain unmarried or refrain from having sex for religious reasons.
<i>charity</i>	1. Giving to the needy. 2. An organisation that does not work for profit and which usually works to help others.
<i>cloning</i>	The scientific method by which animals or plants can be created which have exactly the same genetic make up as the original, because the DNA of the original is used.
<i>cold turkey</i>	Process of trying to beat addiction just by stopping taking drugs.

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<i>community</i>	A group within which a person lives and acts, eg a religious community.
<i>community service</i>	A form of punishment in which the criminal has to perform tasks useful to society, rather than going to prison.
<i>compassion</i>	A feeling of sympathy that makes one want to help.
<i>conception</i>	The moment the sperm fertilises the egg.
<i>conscience</i>	The inner feeling you are doing right or wrong.
<i>corporate responsibility</i>	A community or society takes responsibility for the care of the people within it.
<i>crime against the person</i>	Wrongdoing that directly harms a person, eg murder, assault.
<i>crime against the state</i>	An offence aimed at damaging the government or a country, eg treason.
<i>crime against property</i>	Damaging items that belong to somebody else, eg vandalism.
<i>Day of Resurrection</i>	Day when the dead will return to life.
<i>death</i>	The end of life which can be determined in several ways but normally when the brain stops functioning.
<i>debt</i>	Situation where a person or organisation owes more money than they possess.
<i>dependency</i>	Reliance on somebody or something else.
<i>designer babies</i>	Babies with gender and characteristics chosen by their parents, which is currently illegal.
<i>deterrence</i>	To put people off committing crimes. One of the aims of punishment.
<i>discipline</i>	Having self control.
<i>drug</i>	A substance, which when taken, affects the body or mind.
<i>drug abuse</i>	Using drugs in a way which harms the user.
<i>drug classification</i>	There are three legal categories by which illegal drugs are classified in British law according to the level of harm they do and how addictive they are.
<i>early release</i>	When a prisoner is allowed out of prison even though they have not completed their sentence, or fulfilled the criteria for getting parole.
<i>economically developed country (EDC)</i>	A rich country where people enjoy a comfortable standard of living.
<i>ecstasy</i>	A class A recreational drug.
<i>electronic tagging</i>	An offender has to wear an electronic device which tracks their movement to ensure restrictions of movement are observed.
<i>embryo</i>	Fertilised ovum at about 12–14 days when implanted into the wall of the womb.
<i>embryology</i>	The study of human embryos.
<i>emergency aid</i>	Also known as short term aid. Help given to communities in a time of disaster or crisis, eg food during a famine, shelter after an earthquake.
<i>ensoulment</i>	The belief that at one moment the foetus receives a soul (some believe it doesn't).
<i>ethnic cleansing</i>	Killing or expelling a certain group or race from a country or region.
<i>the Environment</i>	A modern term for the parts of the Earth upon which towns, cities, etc have not been built.
<i>eternal life</i>	Everlasting life after death.
<i>ethics</i>	The theory relating to morality. The study of right and wrong' – morality isn't much easier than ethics on its own?
<i>euthanasia</i>	Inducing a painless death, by agreement and with compassion, to ease suffering. From the Greek meaning "good death".

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<i>excessive salary</i>	Also known as 'fat cat' who earns a large amount of money in salary and possibly bonuses and share options.
<i>exploitation</i>	Poor people, often in LEDCs are paid low wages in order that the employer can make large profits.
<i>extended family</i>	All members of a family, including grandparents, cousins, etc.
<i>fairtrade</i>	A method of trade in which the producer of the product receives a fair payment for his/her product, eg Fair trade bananas.
<i>fertility treatment</i>	Medical procedure to assist an infertile couple to have a child.
<i>fine</i>	A form of punishment in which an offender pays a sum of money.
<i>foetus</i>	Fertilised ovum from eight weeks.
<i>forgiveness</i>	Showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.
<i>fostering</i>	The taking of a child from a different family into a family home and bringing them up with the rest of the new family.
<i>fines</i>	A punishment whereby a minor offender has to make a payment to the court.
<i>free will</i>	Having the ability to choose or determine one's own actions.
<i>gambling</i>	Take risks with money in the hope of making better gains, eg by betting or doing the Lotto.
<i>generation gap</i>	A difference between the views of young people and their parents.
<i>genetic modification</i>	Plants and animals that have had their natural make-up altered by scientists.
<i>free will</i>	Having the ability to choose or determine one's own actions.
<i>gambling</i>	Take risks with money in the hope of making better gains, eg by betting or doing the Lotto.
<i>generation gap</i>	A difference between the views of young people and their parents.
<i>genetic modification</i>	Plants and animals that have had their natural make-up altered by scientists.
<i>global interdependence</i>	The state where different countries in the world are dependent upon each other for trade and survival.
<i>Golden Rule</i>	'To love your neighbour as yourself'.
<i>gross national income</i>	a measure of a country's wealth which is worked out by dividing the income of the country by the number of people who live in it.
<i>hard drugs</i>	Drugs which lead to dependency and cause severe harm to the body.
<i>heaven</i>	A state of being with God after death.
<i>hell</i>	A state of being without God (or with the Devil) after death.
<i>heroin</i>	A highly addictive class A drug.
<i>hippocratic oath</i>	An oath doctors used to swear before practising as a doctor.
<i>homelessness</i>	Not having a place to live.
<i>hospices</i>	Special places to which people go to die with dignity.
<i>housing benefit</i>	A state benefit in which the poor receive help to pay some or all of their rent.
<i>human experimentation</i>	Testing products, usually medicines on paid human volunteers.
<i>human genetic engineering</i>	The modification of gene make-up to change the features of a human.
<i>human rights</i>	The things that all humans should be allowed to have in order to live a fulfilled life.
<i>human-animal hybrid embryo</i>	An embryo made from human DNA and animal eggs for purposes of experimentation.

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<i>illegal drugs</i>	Drugs which are illegal to possess, sell or use, put into three classifications according to their potential harm and addictiveness.
<i>imprisonment</i>	When a person is put in jail for committing a crime.
<i>individual responsibility</i>	A person who takes responsibility for themselves.
<i>Indolence</i>	A deliberate choice to be lazy and over-indulgent.
<i>Inherited wealth</i>	Wealth which a person has not earned, but which has been left to them from a family member who has died.
<i>in vitro fertilisation (IVF)</i>	A procedure in which eggs are removed from a woman's ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg is then replaced into the women's uterus.
<i>infant mortality rate</i>	The rate at which small children die.
<i>inheritance</i>	When a friend or family member leaves you money or property in their will when they die.
<i>involuntary euthanasia</i>	When a patient's life is ended because it is felt that, to keep them alive is to make them suffer, but the patient has not given their consent to the decision.
<i>justice</i>	Bringing about what is right and fair according to the law, or making up for what has been done wrong.
<i>laziness</i>	Situation where somebody refuses to work because they can't be bothered to.
<i>LEDC</i>	Less Economically Developed Country – a country where many people are poor.
<i>legal drugs</i>	Drugs that can be purchased legally. Some have age restrictions.
<i>life imprisonment</i>	A prison sentence that (theoretically) keeps people in jail until they die.
<i>life support machine</i>	A machine that keeps people alive when they would otherwise die.
<i>liturgical worship</i>	A church service which follows a set structure or ritual.
<i>long term aid</i>	Helping needy people to help themselves by providing the tools, education and funding for projects. This type of aid is given by Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD and Trocaire to the poor overseas.
<i>materialism</i>	Belief in the importance of personal possessions.
<i>medical technologies</i>	The increase use of technology to assist healing.
<i>medically prescribed drugs</i>	Drugs prescribed by a doctor as part of medical treatment.
<i>mercy killing</i>	Term sometimes used for euthanasia.
<i>minimum wage</i>	The national minimum wage is the lowest hourly rate that it is legal for an employer to pay to employees or workers.
<i>moral absolute</i>	Ethical statement that is right at all times and in all circumstances.
<i>Morality</i>	A system of ethics, about what is right or wrong.
<i>moral truth</i>	That something is "correct" – this is based upon abstract reasoning.
<i>mourning</i>	State of sadness over the death of a loved one.
<i>National Lottery (Lotto)</i>	Regular gambling competition, available to all over-16s and which offers large prizes, but also gives money to charity. 'Lotto' is now its official name.
<i>natural disasters</i>	Disasters caused by nature, eg earthquakes, volcanoes.
<i>natural resources</i>	Resources that are part of the environment, eg water, minerals, and which are used and often abused by humans.
<i>nicotine</i>	The addictive drug contained in tobacco.

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<i>non-medical use of drugs</i>	The taking of drugs for reasons other than because of medical need.
<i>nuclear family</i>	Traditionally a family comprising of the mother, the father and their own children.
<i>offender</i>	Someone who has done wrong, eg broken the law.
<i>parental involvement</i>	The extent of the role parents have in the lives of their children.
<i>parole</i>	When a prisoner is released without having completed their sentence, because they have behaved well and accepted their guilt. The prisoner is monitored to try to ensure that they do not re-offend.
<i>passive euthanasia</i>	Allowing a terminally or incurably ill person to die by withdrawing or withholding medical treatment that would only prolong the suffering and have no real benefit.
<i>pastoral support</i>	Help received from religious leaders in personal matters.
<i>peer pressure</i>	Influence exerted by friends on each other.
<i>poverty</i>	Condition of being without money, food and other basic needs of life (being poor).
<i>poverty trap</i>	Not being able to break out of poverty.
<i>pre-existence</i>	Belief that some part of ourselves existed before we were conceived for this life.
<i>prescription drugs</i>	Drugs legally obtained only with a doctor's consent.
<i>primitive streak</i>	Fertilised ovum at about 14 days when the backbone begins to appear.
<i>prison</i>	A secure unit to which offenders are sentenced to remove their freedom.
<i>prison reform</i>	A movement that tries to ensure offenders are treated humanely in prison.
<i>probation</i>	An alternative to prison where an offender has to meet regularly with a probation officer to ensure that they do not re-offend. Movement may be restricted.
<i>property crime</i>	A category of crime that affects peoples' property, eg arson, burglary, theft, shoplifting and vandalism.
<i>protection</i>	To stop the criminal hurting anyone in society. An aim of punishment.
<i>punishment</i>	That which is done to a person because they have broken a law.
<i>purgatory</i>	A time of spiritual cleansing and preparation for Heaven.
<i>quality of life</i>	A measure of fulfilment.
<i>rebirth</i>	Continuing life in another form.
<i>recreational drugs</i>	Drugs taken by people for fun.
<i>reform</i>	To change someone's behaviour for the better. An aim of punishment.
<i>rehabilitation (rehab)</i>	The process by which addicts are helped to defeat their addiction to drugs.
<i>reincarnation</i>	Being reborn again in another form.
<i>relative morality</i>	What is morally right or wrong in any situation depends upon its particular circumstances.
<i>religious offence</i>	An offence against religion, eg blasphemy, sacrilege.
<i>religious principles</i>	Living by the ethics laid out by a believer's religion.
<i>religious traditions</i>	Either the principal world faiths or the major Christian traditions (denominations).
<i>reparation</i>	An aim of punishment designed to help an offender to put something back into society.
<i>repentance</i>	Being truly sorry and trying to change one's behaviour so as not to do the same again.
<i>residential home</i>	A large building with individual rooms for the elderly. Meals and a communal room for socialising are provided.

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Term	Definition
<i>retribution</i>	To 'get your own back' on the criminal, based on the Old Testament teaching of 'an eye for an eye'. An aim of punishment aimed at being proportionate to the offence committed.
<i>sanctity of life</i>	Life is sacred because it is God-given.
<i>saviour siblings</i>	A child conceived by IVF with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis to save the life of an incurably ill sibling through the use of the cord blood.
<i>secular organisation</i>	An organisation that is based on non-religious principles.
<i>self determination</i>	Refers to the right to make decisions for oneself in life. It is an argument use by those who agree with voluntary euthanasia.
<i>sexual intercourse</i>	Sexual activity involving more than one person, for reasons of procreation or pleasure.
<i>sheltered housing</i>	A complex of small flats adapted for the elderly with a warden in case of emergency.
<i>sin</i>	The breaking of a religious or moral law.
<i>social environment</i>	The background in which a person lives.
<i>social drugs</i>	Legal drugs which are still addictive, such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, etc.
<i>soft drugs</i>	Illegal drugs that are not believed by the users to lead to dependency or serious side-effects.
<i>solvents</i>	Some aerosols, glue and gas lighter refills abused by sniffing, which can cause hallucinations and can be fatal.
<i>sources of moral authority</i>	Where and how believers derive authority for their actions (through scripture, tradition, reason, conscience, religious leaders, etc.).
<i>spirituality</i>	A sense of something which is outside normal human experience.
<i>stem cell</i>	A cell, most often taken from a 4–5 day old embryo (blastocyst), whose role in the body is yet to be determined.
<i>stewardship</i>	The idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
<i>suffering</i>	Pain or distress.
<i>surrogacy</i>	A form of fertility treatment in which a woman's egg is fertilised artificially by another woman's partner or an embryo from another couple is created through IVF and then implanted into the 'host' woman. The woman carries the baby throughout pregnancy and gives it to the other couple after birth.
<i>surrogate mother</i>	A woman who has a baby for another woman.
<i>sustainable development</i>	Development which takes into consideration the impact on the natural world for future generations.
<i>teetotal</i>	Name given to people who choose not to drink alcohol.
<i>test-tube baby</i>	Term used for a baby created outside of the woman's body.
<i>tobacco</i>	Used in cigarettes and cigars, it contains nicotine, an addictive social drug.
<i>transplant surgery</i>	When someone else's organs are put into a patient.
<i>unemployment</i>	Being out of work with no job.
<i>unfair trade</i>	Trade where the producers are exploited by the buyers.
<i>value of life</i>	The value of a person over and above physical value.
<i>viability</i>	The point at which a foetus could survive if it were to be born.
<i>vindication</i>	An aim of punishment that means offenders must be punished to show that the law must be respected and is right.
<i>voluntary euthanasia</i>	A terminally ill person asks a doctor or a friend to help them die peacefully and with dignity. It can be called 'mercy killing' or 'assisted suicide'.

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<i>voluntary service</i>	A person chooses to work with the poor without being paid.
<i>wealth</i>	A large amount of money or investments.
<i>world trade</i>	Different countries buying and selling goods from each other.
<i>world poverty</i>	The idea that the majority of the world's population actually live in conditions of extreme need or hardship.
<i>zygote</i>	A newly fertilised ovum.

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Buddhism	
Term	Definition
<i>ahimsa</i>	Not killing. Respect for life, not being violent.
<i>anatta</i>	No self, no soul; the Universal Truth that the soul is insubstantial; that people change over their lives; denial of a real or permanent self.
<i>anicca</i>	Impermanence, instability, not permanent, etc.
<i>Brahman</i>	The ultimate reality from which everything comes and into which everything will return.
<i>Brahmin</i>	The first of the four social groups or varnas: the priestly caste.
<i>Buddha</i>	1. Historically the Buddha – the enlightened one. 2. An awakened or enlightened person.
<i>dhamma (dharma)</i>	Universal law; ultimate truth; the teachings of Buddha.
<i>dukkha (duhkha)</i>	Suffering; ill; everything leads to suffering; unsatisfactoriness.
<i>Eightfold Path</i>	The way to wisdom; mental training and the way of morality (eight stages to be practised simultaneously).
<i>The Five Moral Precepts</i>	To not kill any living being, refrain from stealing, refrain from wrongful sexual activity, refrain from lying, refrain from taking drugs and alcohol that cloud the mind.
<i>The Four Noble Truths</i>	Dukkha, Tanha, Nirodha, Magga (suffering, the cause of suffering, the end of suffering, the path to the end of suffering).
<i>metta</i>	Loving kindness. A pure love, which is not possessive and which does not seek to gain.
<i>monk/nun</i>	A man/woman who lives within a religious community and has few, if any, possessions.
<i>nibbana (nirvana)</i>	To reach a state of perfect peace where the individual experiences liberation from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.
<i>samsara (sansara)</i>	The circle of births, death and re-birth, which can be transcended by following the Eightfold Path.
<i>tanha</i>	Desire, which causes suffering. The attempt to grasp at the things we enjoy.

Christianity	
Term	Definition
<i>agape</i>	Christian love; love as charity – also a name for Holy Communion.
<i>Bible</i>	Sacred book of Christians containing both the Old and New Testaments.
<i>Day of Resurrection</i>	Day when the dead will return to life.
<i>Golden Rule</i>	'To love your neighbour as yourself'.
<i>Jesus</i>	1 st century Jewish teacher and holy man, believed by Christians to be the Son of God.
<i>Monk/nun</i>	A man/woman who lives within a religious community and has few, if any, possessions.
<i>salvation</i>	Saving the soul, deliverance from sin and admission to heaven brought about by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

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Hinduism	
Term	Definition
<i>ahimsa</i>	Not killing. Respect for life, not being violent.
<i>atman</i>	Self. Can refer to the body, mind or soul depending on context. Usually the inner, or real, self.
<i>artha</i>	Economic development – the second aim of life.
<i>danda</i>	Punishment.
<i>dharma</i>	Religion. The right conduct and laws which uphold order and harmony in society.
<i>Four Aims of Life</i>	Dharma, Artha, Karma, Moksha.
<i>karma</i>	Action. The law of cause and effect.
<i>moksha</i>	Final freedom from the cycle of birth and death.
<i>paapa</i>	Anti-social behaviour.
<i>samsara (sansara)</i>	The world, where the cycle of birth, death and rebirth takes place.
<i>Vedas</i>	Literally “knowledge”, this word refers to the sacred books of the Hindus. The earliest Hindu scriptures.

Islam	
Term	Definition
<i>akhirah</i>	Everlasting life after death.
<i>Allah</i>	The Islamic name for God.
<i>hadith</i>	Words and actions of the Prophet Muhammad. A major source of Islamic Law.
<i>haram</i>	Any action or thing which is forbidden.
<i>Islam</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name of the religion followed by Muslims. 2. To surrender to the will of God. 3. Peace.
<i>Jahannam</i>	Muslim word for hell.
<i>Muhammad</i>	The last and greatest of the prophets of Allah.
<i>Muslim</i>	One who has submitted to the will of Allah and has accepted Islam.
<i>Qur’an</i>	The Holy Book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the angel Jibril. Allah’s final revelation to humankind.
<i>Ramadan</i>	Month during which fasting from dawn to sunset is demanded (ninth month of the Islamic calendar).
<i>Shari’ah</i>	Islamic law based directly on the Qur’an and Sunnah.

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Judaism	
Term	Definition
<i>Bet Din</i>	Jewish Religious Court, made up of rabbis.
<i>Mitzvot</i>	Jewish rules or commandments.
<i>Tenakh (Tanakh)</i>	The 24 books of the Jewish Bible. Jewish scriptures – Torah (Law), Nevi'im (writings) and Ketuvim (prophets).
<i>Torah</i>	1. The five books of Moses and first section of the Tenakh – the law. 2. The whole of Jewish teaching.
<i>Tzedakah</i>	Giving to charity in Judaism.

Sikhism	
Term	Definition
<i>guru</i>	A spiritual teacher.
<i>Guru Granth Sahib</i>	Collection of Sikh scriptures, collated by Guru Arjan and Guru Gobind Singh.
<i>karma</i>	That a person reaps what they sow.
<i>Rahit Maryada (Rehat Maryada)</i>	The Sikh Code of Discipline, covering religious rites and ethical observances.
<i>sewa (seva)</i>	Service for the Sikh community and gurdwara, also directed at all of humanity.
<i>Vand Chhakna</i>	Giving in charity; sharing one's time, talents and earnings with the less fortunate; vand means "share".

