

# Religious Studies GCSE

## Component One: Foundational Catholic Theology

### Theme One: Origins and Meaning

#### Key Concepts

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation:</b>
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 himself 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.

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## Component One: Foundational Catholic Theology

### Theme Two: Good and Evil

#### Key Concepts

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation:</b>
Conscience	<b>Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong</b> and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and to avoid what is evil.
Evil	<b>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.</b>
Free-will	<b>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.</b>
Goodness	<b>The quality of being like God: seeking the well-being of others selflessly.</b>
Incarnation	<b>"Made flesh" The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.</b>
Natural Law	<b>The moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws.</b> 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	<b>The loss or absence of a quality or something that is normally present.</b> Evil is a privation of good.
Suffering	<b>Pain or loss which harms human beings.</b> Some suffering is caused by other human beings (often called moral evil); some is not (often called natural evil).

# Religious Studies GCSE

## Component Two: Applied Catholic Theology

### Theme Three: Life and Death

#### Key Concepts

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation:</b>
Death	<b>The end of physical life. When the physical body ceases completely to function.</b>
Eternal life	<b>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.</b>
Heaven	<b>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".</b>
Hell	<b>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".</b>
Judgement	<b>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.</b>
Magisterium	<b>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.</b>
Resurrection	<b>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.</b>
Soul	<b>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.</b>

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## Component Two: Applied Catholic Theology

### Theme Four: Sin and Forgiveness

#### Key Concepts

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation:</b>
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.

# Religious Studies GCSE

## Component Three: Study of Judaism

### Key Concepts

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Definition/Explanation:</b>
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.
Mitzvot	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.

