GCSE: Christianity Key Words.

**Christian:** A believer in, and follower of Jesus.

**Apostles’ Creed:** An early statement of Christian belief.

**Cosmological argument:** The argument that there must be a first cause and that this was God.

**Father:** One person of the threefold nature of God.

**Forgiveness:** The teaching of forgiveness forms part of the most important and widely used Christian prayer – the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, commonly known as the Lord’s Prayer.

**Heaven:** A Christian idea of paradise where the soul goes after death if it is free from sin to have eternal life with God.

**Holy Spirit:** One person of the threefold nature of God.

**Incarnate:** The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus.

**Monotheism:** Belief in one God.

**Resurrection:** The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after the crucifixion.

**Son:** One person of the threefold nature of God.

**Teleological argument:** The argument that the world is so complex that it must have had a designer and the designer must have been God.

**Trinity:** The Christian belief that God is three separate persons within One – father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Ontological argument:** The argument based on the idea that God is greater than anything else people can think of.

**Committal:** The actions that take place when a body is buried or cremated.

**Day of Judgement:** The day when God will judge everyone according to their actions and faith on earth.

**Eulogy:** The speech given at a funeral about the person who has died.

**Funeral:** The ceremony or service that takes place after someone has died.

**Hell:** A place that some Christians believe is a punishment after death for those souls that are not free from sin; it is often referred to as a place of suffering and torment without God.

**Judge:** The Christian idea of God acting as a judge to determine whether a person goes to Heaven or Hell after death.

**Purgatory:** In some Christian traditions, a condition or state in which good souls receive spiritual cleansing after death in preparation for Heaven.

**Redemption:** The idea that sins can be forgiven and that a person can be redeemed. Jesus is often referred to as the Redeemer as he died for the sins of the whole world.

**Salvation:** Jesus came to earth to save people from their sins and achieved salvation through his sacrifice in death on the cross.

**Soul:** Christians believe the soul is a non-physical and immortal part of the body that continues after death and is the connection to God.

**Conscience:** An inner voice or feeling giving guidance on the rightness or wrongness of behaviour.

**Free will:** The belief that God created humans with the ability to make moral choices.

**Golden rule:** Jesus’ teaching the people that they should treat others as they wish to be treated.

**Job:** Biblical character whose faith is tested.

**Moral evil:** Evil and suffering caused by people.

**Natural evil:** Evil and suffering caused by natural events such as earthquakes.

**Omnipotent:** Powerful, able to do anything.

**Omniscient:** All-knowing.
Original Sin: The sin which was brought into the world at the Fall and which Christianity teaches everyone is born with.
Sacrifice: Giving up a life for God.
The Devil/Satan: A supernatural evil power.
The Fall: The disobedience of Adam and Eve resulting in their expulsion from Eden.
Theodicies: Arguments justifying why there is evil in the world if God exists.
Big Bang: A scientific theory that a cosmic explosion caused the world to exist.
creation: The act of creating something or the thing that is made, in the Bible, the making of the world by God.

Creationists/literalists: A name given to Christians who interpret the Bible literally and accept every word of the Genesis creation story as literally true.
dominion: The idea that humans have control over or responsibility for the earth.
evolution: The way in which animals and plants adapt to their surroundings – survival of the fittest.
ex nihilo: A Latin term relating to the creation story meaning the universe was created out of nothing.

Genesis: The first book of the Bible which contains the stories of creation.
humanity: Caring and showing kindness to others, often a term used for all humans.
Non-literalist: A name given to a Christian who interprets the Bible as more of a story than literalists and believes it contains important truths but is not a factual account.
stewardship: The God-given right or responsibility to care for and manage the world.
sacred / sanctity: Holy / having something of God or the Divine.
sanctity of life: The belief that all life is given by God and is therefore sacred.
charity: To give help or money to those in need.
compassion: Sympathy and concern for others.
ecumenical: Different Christian denominations working together.
immoral: Not conforming to accepted standards of behaviour.

LEDC: Less economically developed country.
MEDC: Less economically developed country.
moral: Conforming to accepted standards of behaviour.
philanthropist: Someone who donates money, goods, services or time to help a cause which benefits society.
tithe: The Christian practice of giving a tenth of their income to charity.
trade restrictions: Restrictions made by one country about the amounts and types of good it will allow into the country from other countries.
capital punishment: Executing a criminal convicted of murder and other crimes.
conscientious objector: Someone who refuses to fight in a war on the basis of their conscience.
Just War theory: The belief that wars can be morally justified if they follow certain criteria.
justice: Fairness in society and the world.
nuclear pacifism: Belief that the use of nuclear weapons can never be justified.
pacifism: The belief that peace should be the central value that people pursue.
proportionality: The belief that force can only be met with equal force.
Quaker: A member of the Christian denomination also known as the Religious Society of Friends.
revenge: Seeking to repay a wrong by getting recompense.
sin: An act which goes against God’s will.

social justice: The belief that people should be treated fairly and with respect in a society.
Social injustice: Where people may be denied rights as a consequence of poverty or discrimination.
Violence: The use of physical force with the intention to harm.
discrimination: Unjust or prejudicial treatment because of race, age, gender or disability.
equality: Treating people as equals regardless of gender, race or religious beliefs.
Eucharist: The Christian ceremony commemorating the Last Supper, in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed.
evangelism: Persuading others to share your faith.
forgiveness: Forgiving someone for something they have done wrong.
prejudice: Making judgements not based on reason or actual experience.
proselytising: Trying to convert people from their religion to yours.
racism: Prejudice, discrimination or ill treatment against someone because of their race.
reconciliation: Restoring friendly relations.
repentance: sincere regret or remorse from one’s actions.
sexism: Prejudice, stereotyping or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex.
Nicene Creed: A statement of Christian belief
Crucifixion: The death of Jesus on the cross
Ascension: The journey of Jesus Christ up to Heaven after his resurrection
Atonement: Making amends for wrongdoing, re-establishing a relationship with God
Grace: God’s love and kindness towards humans
Sacraments: To make holy. A Christian rite or ceremony (e.g. baptism, Eucharist). A visible sign of God’s grace.
Numinous: Suggests the presence of God, a strong religious or spiritual quality
Visions: The act or power of anticipating something which will or may come to be
Formulaic prayer: A prayer which contains set words e.g. The Lord’s Prayer
Extempore prayer: An informal prayer, spoken without preparation
Pilgrimage: A journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion
Parish: An area (village/town) which has its’ own church and vicar
Liturgy/liturgical: An official, fixed set of words or readings used during public worship e.g. marriage ceremony
philanthropist: Someone who donates money, goods, services or time to help a cause which benefits society.
tithe: The Christian practice of giving a tenth of their income to charity.