

Year 7 and 8 Keywords and definitions:

General:

- God: A supernatural being worshipped as the creator and controller of the universe.
- Atheist: The name given to someone who does not believe in a supreme being, or god.
- Agnostic: The name given to someone who is undecided whether a supreme being (God) exists.
- Theist: The name given to someone who believes in a god.
- Belief: Trust or confidence in the truth of something or someone, often without proof.
- Worship: An act of respect or devotion to God.
- Prayer: A way of approaching or communicating with God.
- Pray: Talking and listening to God.
- Faith: Strong belief in something, especially without proof.
- Charity: To give help or money to those in need.
- Equality: Treating everyone equally.
- Forgiveness: The idea that people should be forgiven for the things they do wrong.
- Baptism: The ceremony by which some people become members of a religious group.
- Discrimination: The action taken as a result of prejudice.
- Prejudice: To prejudge someone for no good reason.
- Holy / Divine: Associated with God; sacred.

Islam:

- Islam: The religion founded by the Prophet Muhammad and followed by Muslims.
- Muslim: The name of a follower of the religion of Islam.
- Allah: The Arabic word for God.
- Qur'an: The holy book of Islam, believed by Muslims to have come directly from God
- Gabriel / Jibril: The angel who gave the words of Allah to the Prophet Muhammad who then recorded them in the Qur'an.
- Prophet: A holy person who speaks to God and is given God's word.
- Muhammad: The name of the Prophet who founded the religion of Islam.
- Hajj: The annual pilgrimage that Muslims make to Makkah. One of the Five Pillars of Islam.

- Makkah: The holy city for Muslims in Saudi Arabia, where Islam started, and a place of pilgrimage.
- Mosque: A holy temple where Muslims gather to pray.
- Ramadan: A holy month for Muslims remembering the month when the Prophet Muhammad received the words of the Qur'an. Muslims fast in daylight hours during this month.
- Zakah: The duty of giving in Islam – the word literally means “growth” and “purification”. One of the Five Pillars of Islam.

Christianity:

- Christianity: The religion followed by Christians.
- Christian: The name given to followers of the Christ (Jesus).
- Bible: The holy book of Christianity believed by Christians to be the word of God.
- Old Testament: The Christian name for the Jewish scriptures; the first part of the Christian Bible.
- New Testament: A collection of Christian writings which include the Gospels; the second part of the Bible.
- Church: The name given to the building in which Christians worship; different denominations within Christianity; the worldwide Christian community.
- Crucifix: A particular kind of cross which has an image of Jesus on it.
- Pews: bench-type seats often found in old churches.
- Priest: The title given to people who have been ordained and are authorised to lead worship and look after the congregation in the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. Priests are also known as Vicars in the Church of England.
- Parable: A short story which makes a religious or moral point.
- Pilgrimage: A religious journey.

Hinduism:

- Hinduism: A major world religion, also known as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal or imperishable religion.
- Hindu: Someone who follows the religion of Hinduism.
- Brahman: The supreme spirit; the name of God in Hinduism.
- Trimurti: The three main forms of Brahman (God): Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver) and Shiva (the Destroyer).
- Atman: The soul or “real self”, a part of God that is in all living beings.
- Aum / Om: A sacred sound and symbol that represents God.

Avatar: "one who descends"; refers to the incarnation of a deity on earth.

Caste system: the organisation of Indian society into occupational kinship groups.

Dalit: "the oppressed"; a name adopted by Hindus who are outside the caste system. They are also known as "untouchables" or harijans, "children of God".

Dharma: religion or religious duty.

Karma: "action"; the law of cause and effect. The belief that all thoughts and actions have results that correspond to them.

Mandir: Hindu place of worship, also known as a temple.

Moksha: Liberation or freedom from samsara.

Murti: An image or representation of a deity.

Ramayana: A sacred text in the form of a story or poem which tells the story of Rama and Sita.

Samsara: Reincarnation, the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

Buddhism:

Buddha: The Enlightened or Awakened one. Title given to Siddhartha Gautama after his enlightenment.

Buddhism: The religion taught by the Buddha.

Enlightenment: Understanding of what is true and what is not. To find the path to truth.

Precepts: A principle or intention for living.

Meditation: Thinking deeply for religious reasons. Mental practice to help to reach enlightenment.

Nirvana: "Emptiness". The goal of Buddhism to become one with the universe and no longer bound up with suffering and existence.

Sangha: The Buddhist community, a name sometimes given to a group of monks or nuns.

Siddhartha Gautama: "perfect fulfilment". The name of the person who became known as the Buddha.

Sikhism:

Sikhism: The religion founded by Guru Nanak and followed by Sikhs.

Sikh: Someone who follows the teachings of Sikhism.

Guru: a teacher. In Sikhism, the title Guru is used for the ten human Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Waheguru:	“Wonderful Lord”. A Sikh name for God.
Amrit:	“nectar”; Sanctified liquid made of sugar and water, used in initiation ceremonies in Sikhism.
Baisakhi:	A major Sikh festival celebrating the foundation of the Khalsa in 1699.
Khalsa:	“The community of the pure”. The community of baptised Sikhs.
Panj piare:	“The five beloved ones”. Those first initiated into the Khalsa and those who perform the rite today.
The 5 Ks:	The symbols of Sikhism worn by baptised Sikhs.
Kachera:	Traditional underwear / shorts. One of the 5 Ks.
Kangha:	A comb worn in the hair. One of the 5 Ks.
Kara:	A steel band worn on the right wrist. One of the 5 Ks.
Kirpan:	A sword. One of the 5 Ks.
Khanda:	A double-edged sword used in the initiation ceremony. Also used as an emblem on the Sikh flag.
Langar:	“Guru’s kitchen”. The gurdwara dining hall and the food served in it.
Mukti:	Escape from rebirth.
Sewa:	Serving others, both in the Gurdwara, and also to humanity in general.
Singh:	“Lion”. Name adopted by Sikh males.
Chauri:	A symbol of the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. A fan waved over scriptures made of yak hair or nylon.
Granthi:	A reader of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, who officiates at ceremonies.
Gurdwara:	Sikh place of worship. Literally the “doorway to the Gurus”.

Judaism:

Judaism:	The religion of the Jewish people.
Jewish:	The name given to followers of the religion of Judaism.
Orthodox:	Jews who observe traditional Jewish teachings and uphold Orthodoxy.
Covenant:	The promise made by God to care for the Jewish people.
Kiddush:	Prayer of blessing said at the beginning of Shabbat.
Holocaust:	Destruction or loss of life on a massive scale; mass murder of the Jews in Europe by the Nazis (1940-45)

Kippah: Head covering worn by Jews.

Kosher: Food that Jews are allowed to eat.

Mezuzah: A miniature scroll in a case, fixed to the right door-post of Jewish homes.

Shabbat: Jewish holy day also known as Sabbath.

Shalom: Hebrew for "peace".

Shema: "Hear!" the Jewish prayer stating the oneness of God.

Synagogue: Jewish place of worship.

Tallit: Prayer robe or shawl worn by Jews during morning prayer.

Tefillin: two leather boxes containing Biblical verses, worn for morning prayer on weekdays.

Torah: "Instruction"; name given to the first five books of the Tenakh, or sometimes to the whole Bible, and sometimes to all Rabbinic literature.

Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement.