

# GCSE Religious Studies subject specific vocabulary

## AQA GCSE Religious Studies A - Christianity Beliefs and Teachings

**Ascension** - going or being taken up; the event forty days after the resurrection when Jesus returned to glory in heaven.

**Atonement** - making amends or payment for a wrong. The belief that reconciliation between God and humanity that was brought about by the death of Jesus as a sacrifice.

**Bible** - source of wisdom and authority; a holy book containing both the Old and New Testaments.

**Catholic** - the tradition within the Christian Church which is led by the Pope; also called the Roman Catholic Church. (Note: the term 'catholic' refers to the communion of all Christians, the universal Church, although it is not a term included on the specification).

**Christ** - literally means 'Anointed One' in Greek; the Hebrew equivalent is Messiah. The leader promised by God to the Jews, Christians believe Jesus to be the Christ.

### Church

- the People of God/Body of Christ, among whom Christ is beloved to be present and active.
- Members of a particular denomination/tradition, e.g. Roman Catholic, Methodist.
- A building in which Christians worship.

**Creation** - bringing the world into existence, the belief that the world is God's loving creation.

**Crucifixion** - the death of Jesus, a form of the death penalty used by the Romans.

**Evil** - the opposite of good; a cause of suffering and against the will of God.

**The Father** - the first Person of the Trinity, the belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe.

**Grace** - the unconditional and generous love that God shows to people who do not deserve it.

**Heaven** - belief that after death Christians can enter a state of being with God for eternity.

**Hell** - belief in a place of eternal suffering, or a state after death of being in separation from God.

**Holy Spirit** - the third Person of the Trinity, believed to be present with believers since Pentecost and active on earth.

**Incarnation** - literally 'in flesh', or 'enfleshed', belief that God took on human form in the person of Jesus.

**Jesus** - believed by Christians to be the Son of God, he was a first century Jewish teacher living and travelling in Palestine/Israel.

**Judgement** - the belief that God will decide whether each person should receive eternal life or eternal punishment based on their earthly life.

**Just** - fair of equal treatment, a state of justice. Belief about the nature of God as treating all people justly.

**Law** - rules or commands which must be followed; the law of God is revealed in the Bible.

**Omnipotent** - the belief that God is 'all powerful'.

**The Oneness of God** - the belief that God is one singular divine being (who can be manifest in the Three Persons of the Trinity).

**Original sin** - belief human nature is flawed, and that we all have the tendency to sin; traditional belief held by some Christians that this came from Adam & Eve's eating of the forbidden fruit as recorded in Genesis 3.

**Orthodox** - a denomination/tradition of the Church popular in some parts of Eastern Europe. There are two main Orthodox Churches - Greek and Russian.

**Protestant** - Christian denominations in which authority is generally based on the Bible, rather than Church tradition/teaching (e.g. Anglican, Methodist, Baptist).

**Reconciliation** - making up and rebuilding relationships between two groups/sides after disagreement.

### Resurrection

- being raised from the dead, the event three days after the crucifixion when it is believed that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- the form that many Christians believe the afterlife will take, referring to either physical or spiritual bodies.

**Salvation** - being saved; belief that through God's grace, Jesus' death and resurrection brought about salvation for humanity. Saving of the soul and being able to enter eternal life in heaven.

**Sin** - behaviour which is against God's laws and wishes/against Christian principles of morality.

**The Son** - the second Person of the Trinity; Jesus believed to be God incarnate.

**Son of God** - a title used for Jesus; the second Person of the Trinity. Shows the special relationship between Jesus and God.

**Suffering** - an effect of evil; undergoing pain and hardship.

**Trinity** - the belief that God as One includes God also being manifest in three Persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Word** - in the Bible, John 1 describes God creating the world through his eternal Word. This links the eternal Word to Jesus in the statement: *"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1: 14)