

Key Words

Remember – knowing these words will mean the difference between grades. If you know them all you will already score a grade F before you begin the religious stuff!

Religion and the Environment

Key Word	Meaning
Pollution	Contaminating the environment
Greenhouse Effect	Trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to global warming
Acid Rain	Pollutants such as coal release nitric acid, making rain acidic
Natural resources	Naturally occurring materials e.g. oil, which humans can use
Creation	Act of creating the world or the world which is created
Stewardship	Looking after something so it can be passed on
Environment	Surroundings in which plants and animals live and which they depend upon
Conservation	Protecting and preserving the environment and resources
Animal rights	Belief that animals have rights which can't be exploited

Crime and Punishment

Key Word	Meaning
Sin	Act against the will of God
Crime	Act against the law
Law	Rules made by parliament and reinforced by the courts
Justice	Due allocation of reward and punishment – maintaining what is right
Deterrence	Idea that punishment should put people off committing crimes
Retribution	Idea that punishments should make the criminal pay for their crimes.
Reform	Idea that punishments should change the criminal
Judgement	The act of judging people and their actions
Punishment	Penalty given for any crime of offence
Capital Punishment	Death penalty for a crime

Peace and Conflict

Key Word	Meaning
Nuclear Weapons	Weapons based on atomic fission or fusion
Other weapons of mass destruction	Non-nuclear weapons which can destroy large areas e.g. chemical weapons
Pacifism	Refusing to fight in wars
Just War	A war that is fought for the right reasons and in the right way
World Peace	Basic aim of the United Nations to remove causes of war
Bullying	Intimidating or frightening people weaker than yourself
Forgiveness	The act of stopping blaming someone and/ or pardoning them for their actions
Reconciliation	Bringing together people who were opposed to each other

Social Responsibility

Key word	Meaning
Bible	Holy book of Christians containing 66 books, split into Old and New testaments
Church	Community of Christians
Conscience	Inner feeling of right or wrong
Situation Ethics	Idea that Christians do the most loving thing to do in a situation
Electoral System	Way voting is organised
First Past the Post	Whoever gets the most votes in a constituency wins
Proportional Representation	System where seats are distributed according to the proportion of votes each party gets.
National Government	Government headed by Prime Minister who look after the country
Local Government	Local council which deals with local issues
Decalogue	10 commandments
Golden Rule	Jesus' teaching that we should treat others as we would like to be treated.