**Useful Terminology: Key words**

**Area of study 1: Catholic Christianity**

**Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Trinity | The Christian belief that there is One God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit |
| Nicene Creed | A Christian statement of faith primarily about the nature of God. Accepted by the majority of Christians |
| First Council of Nicaea | A council of Christian Bishops that took place in Nicaea in AD 325 |
| First council of Constantinople | The second council of Christian Bishops, they confirmed, with some expansion, the Nicene Creed. AD 381 |
| Creation | The Creation of the universe regarded as an act of God |
| Creator  | God the Creator of the universe. A characteristic of God |
| Benevolent | All loving |
| Omnipotent | All powerful |
| Eternal | God has no beginning and no end. Last forever. |
| Dominion | Control over something, e.g. the natural world |
| Stewardship | Humanity's responsibility to manage the world and animals for the next generation |
| Incarnation  | The belief that God became a human being in Jesus |
| Divine Word | Jesus as the Word of God as in John 1 |
| Paschal Mystery  | The mystery of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus; relates to Easter |
| Resurrection  | The belief that Jesus rose from the dead after three days. The belief that the body stays in the grave until the end of the world, when it is raised and judged |
| Redemption | The action of being saved from sin |
| Salvation | The deliverance of humanity from sin |
| Grace | The undeserved love and mercy given to humanity by God because of his desire, not because of human action |
| Judgement  | The final trial of all humanity, the living and the dead, at the end of the world |
| Heaven | The ultimate end and the resting place of saved souls |
| Hell | The eternal separation from God |
| Purgatory | A preparation for Heaven, a place of purification and healing |
| Literal understanding ofCreation | Believing Creation occurred as outlined in Genesis 1-3 |
| Metaphoricalunderstanding of Creation | Believing Genesis 1-3 can be understood as a myth/symbolically |
| Catholic Catechism | The official teachings of the Catholic Church |

**Section 2: Practices**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Sacrament | A visible sign of an inward grace |
| Grace  | The undeserved love and mercy given to humanity by God because of his desire, not because of human action |
| Liturgy (liturgical worship; liturgical celebrations) | A set form of public worship/religious rite |
| Prayer | Communication with God. 'Raising the hearts and minds to God' |
| Evangelical Christians | A Protestant denomination; can also refer to a movement within Christianity that emphasises evangelism |
| The Lord’s prayer  | The prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples |
| Formulaic prayers | Prayers that follow a set format, can often be taught and learned, or read the same every time |
| Informal prayers  | Prayers that are given spontaneously, are often seen as more personal |
| Rosary | A set of prayers often using a string of beads |
| Eucharist | The celebration of the Mass when bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus |
| Stations of the Cross | A series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers |
| Pilgrimage | A journey made to a place of importance to a religion for spiritual reasons |
| Justice | Giving to people what they deserve. It is one of the four cardinal virtues |
| Peace | An inner calmness. Treating one another as brother and sisters, recognising all as children of God |
| Reconciliation | Bringing together people who were opposed to one another. The overall message of Christianity where humanity is reconciled with God |
| CAFOD  | Catholic Agency For Overseas Development. A Catholic Charity |
| Catholic Mission | People serving Christ by bringing the Catholic truth to the world |
| Evangelism | The spreading of the faith though teaching about the religion and helping others |
| Commission of Jesus (The Great Commission)  | Jesus' last command to his disciples to go out and spread the teachings of Jesus |
| Popular piety | Forms of prayer and worship that Christians perform which are inspired by popular practice rather than by liturgy |

**Section 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority.**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| The Bible | The holy book of Christians; comes from Greek word meaning 'the books' or 'library' |
| Old Testament | The first part of the Bible; It refers to Creation, the covenant with Abraham and then with the people of Israel |
| New Testament | The second part of the Bible; it refers to the new covenant with all people through Jesus |
| The Magisterium | The living teaching office of the Church |
| Catholic Catechism | The official teachings of the Catholic Church |
| Conciliar Magisterium | Solemn teaching from a council meeting of the Magisterium |
| Pontifical Magisterium | When the Pope uses his authority to make an infallible statement |
| The Second VaticanCouncil | Informally known as Vatican II. Bishops met to discuss issues of the time. From 1962-1965. The council produced key documents |
| Dei Verbum | Key document produced by the Second Vatican Council. Means 'Word of God'. Deals with the divine revelation of the Bible and the tradition handed down from the apostles |
| Lumen Gentium | Key document produced by the Second Vatican Council. Means 'The light of Humanity'. It covers common priesthood and a united Church on a journey together towards the second coming |
| Sacrosanctum Concilium | Key document produced by the Second Vatican Council. Means 'The sacred council'. It covers liturgy and worship and the Mass in particular |
| Gaudium et Spes | Key document produced by the Second Vatican Council. Means 'Joy and hope' This document addresses the world and the Church and concerns human rights and justice |
| Body of Christ | The idea that the Church is Christ on Earth. Members unitedly form the Body of Christ in the world today |
| The four marks of the Church | The four teachings of the Catholic Church stated in the Nicene Creed and is part of the belief of all Christians. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic |
| Holy Church | The belief that God made the Church, so his Church is Holy |
| Catholic Church | The belief that the Church is universal and includes all people |
| Apostolic Church | The Church continues the teachings and tradition of the apostles |
| One Church | The Church is united in belief and worship |
| Nicene Creed | The Christian statement of Faith which originated at the First Council of Nicaea |
| First council ofConstantinople | The second council of Christian Bishops, they confirmed, with some expansion, the Nicene Creed. AD 381 |
| Mary  | The mother of Jesus and the mother of the Church |
| Salvation | The deliverance of humanity from sin |
| Discipleship | Accepting and assisting in the spreading of the 'good news' of Christ. Following Christ |
| Faith | Belief and confidence in God based on spiritual conviction |
| Charity | One of the virtues showing love for others |
| Jesus | The Son of God, the Third Person of the Trinity |
| Natural law | The inbuilt moral order of the universe given by God |
| Conscience | An inner sense that comes from God and helps a person decide what is right and wrong |
| Gospel | Literally 'Good News' |
| Apostolic tradition | The teaching passed down from the apostles to the Bishops, through the ages to today |
| Apostolic Succession | The teaching of Jesus comes from the apostles continually and unaltered to the Bishops |

**Section 4: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Architecture | The buildings and physical structures |
| Design | The plan for the construction of an object, which shows its purpose |
| Decoration  | Something used to improve or adorn a space |
| Lectern | Raised stand where the Bible is read from |
| Altar | The table at which the bread and wine are consecrated |
| Crucifix | A cross with the image of Jesus crucified upon it, represents the death and suffering of Christ. Is a symbol of Christian faith |
| Tabernacle | A safe place to keep the Blessed Sacrament |
| Redemption | The mystery of God’s saving of humanity from sin |
| Sacred vessels | The utensils and receptacles used in liturgical celebrations; especially those that come into contact with the Blessed Sacrament |
| Sarcophagi | A stone or marble coffin or tomb, usually highly decorated |
| Hunger cloths | Used during Lent and hung over the altar |
| Fresco | A picture painted on a plastered wall whilst still wet |
| Symbolism | The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities |
| Imagery | A visual description |
| The cross | The empty cross represents the risen Christ. It is a symbol of Christian faith |
| Fish | symbol Used to symbolise Christians - who are fishers of men. Comes from the Greek word for fish Ichthus. The symbol was a secret code for early Christians |
| Chi-Rho | A sign made up of the first letters for Christ in Greek |
| Eagle | Supports the idea of spreading the Gospel over the world. Often found on lecterns |
| Alpha and Omega | A title of God. The first and the last; the beginning and the end of the Greek alphabet |
| Mystery plays | Medieval plays about important events and stories in the Bible |
| Passion plays | Plays retelling the story of the journey of Christ to the cross, his trial, suffering and death. Performed in Lent |
| Hymns | A religious song of praise or poem to God |
| Plainchant | Plainchant is a form of medieval church music that involves chanting, or words that are sung, without any instrumental accompaniment. It is also called plainsong |
| Psalms | A book in the Bible. A song or hymn. They are chanted in the Catholic liturgy |
| Worship songs | Songs used to worship God, can use contemporary music and instruments |

**Area of study 2: Judaism**

**Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings**

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| Useful Terminology  | Definition |
| Almighty  | Name for God |
| Shekhinah | The glory of God, referring to the presence of God in the world |
| Torah | The five books of Law. |
| The Messiah | A Hebrew word meaning 'Anointed One'; a person that is expected to come to deliver Israel |
| Messianic Age | A time when all nations will live in peace and there will be justice in the world |
| Orthodox Jew | Traditional Jews, who follow the Torah as the Word of God. Some integrate with the modern world, some live separately |
| Reform Jew | Modernised Judaism binging in the findings of science and biblical criticism into Judaism |
| Covenant | A sacred agreement between God and humanity |
| Covenant at Sinai | The agreement made by God with Moses |
| The Decalogue | The Ten Commandments |
| Abrahamic covenant | The agreement made by God with Abraham |
| The Promised Land | The land which, according to the Tanakh was promised and subsequently given by God to Abraham and his descendants |
| Pikuach Nefesh | The primacy of life |
| Mitzvot | The 613 laws recorded in the Torah |
| Mishneh Torah ofMaimonides | The code of law written by the Maimonides |
| Free will | Thee ability to choose between different possible courses of action without interference. Given by God |
| Resurrection | The belief that the body will be raised again to life, in a new, spiritual, transformed way |
| Judgement | The due allocation of rewards and punishments |

**Section 2: Practices**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Synagogue | Jewish place of worship |
| Tenakh | The Jewish holy book. Its name comes from the initial letters in Hebrew of the books |
| Talmud  | The oral tradition that explains how the laws were to be obeyed |
| Kashrut  | The keeping of Jewish food laws |
| Kosher | Fitting/Allowed. Food allowed to be eaten by a Jew |
| Treifah | Forbidden. Usually used in food laws |
| Prayer | Communication with God |
| Shema | The Shema is one of only two prayers that are specifically commanded in Torah. It is a declaration of Jewish belief in one God |
| Amidah | The core of every Jewish worship service, and is therefore also referred to as HaTefillah, or “The prayer.” Amidah ,which literally means, “standing,” refers to a series of blessings recited while standing |
| Mezuzah | A container for the Shema scroll put on doorposts |
| Brit Milah | Covenant of circumcision |
| Bar Mitzvah | The son of the commandment. The Jewish boy's coming of age |
| Bat Mitzvah | The daughter of the commandment. The Jewish girl's coming of age |
| Shiva | The seven days of intense mourning |
| Avelut | The mourning period |
| Yahrzeit | The anniversary day of someone's death |
| Shabbat | The Jewish holy day; Saturday, the seventh day of the week |
| Rosh Hashanah | The Jewish new year festival |
| Yom Kippur | Jewish holy day; also known as the Day of Atonement |
| Pesach | One of the spring festivals, it is a commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt–especially the night when God “passed over” the houses of the Israelites during the tenth plague–and of the following day, when the Israelites had to leave Egypt hurriedly. Centered on the family or communal celebration of the seder(ritual meal), Passover is one of the most celebrated of all Jewish holidays |
| Shavuot | The word Shavuot means “weeks.” It marks the completion of the seven-week counting period between Passover and Shavuot |
| Sukkot | A week long Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection G‑ d provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt |
| Ark | Large cupboard at the front of the synagogue where the Torah scrolls are kept |
| Bimah | Raised platform in front of the Ark from which the scriptures are read |
| Yad | Pointer used when reading the Torah Scroll |
| Ner tamid | A lamp that burns perpetually in Jewish synagogues before or near the ark of the Law |
| Menorah | Seven branched candlestick |
| Sefer  | Torah The scroll of the Torah |

**Area of Study 3:**

**Section 1: Philosophy and Ethics - Catholic Christianity**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Revelation | Comes from the Greek term meaning to unveil. Used to describe God unveiling himself to humanity |
| Visions | Something seen in a dream, trance or religious ecstasy, which gives a religious message |
| Miracles | An event that seems to break the laws of science and the only explanation for it seem to be God |
| Religious experience | An event that people feel gives them direct contact with God |
| Design argument | Philosophical arguments that go from the order in the universe (its design) to the existence of God. Given by Plato, Aquinas and Paley |
| Cosmological argument | The First Cause Argument is a philosophical argument for the existence of God which explains that everything has a cause, that there must have been a first cause, and that this first cause was itself uncaused |
| Philosophical argument | The study of the nature of knowledge presented in reasoned and logical way |

**Section 2: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century**

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| Useful Terminology | Definition |
| Marriage | The legally and religiously recognised union of two people as partners in a personal relationship |
| Sanctity | Something that is holy or sacred |
| Cohabitation | Living together as partners and having a sexual relationship without being married |
| Marital | Something that refers to the married relationship of a couple |
| Unitive | The union is both of body and spirit, it is a union of persons |
| Procreative | Making a new life |
| Homosexuality | Sexual attraction to someone of the same sex |
| Nuclear family | A mother, father and their child/ren living together |
| Single parent family | One parent and child/ren living together |
| Same-sex family | Two parents of the same gender living with a child/ren |
| Extended family  | Family that is outside the immediate, e.g. grandparents and other relatives |
| Blended family | Children from different relationships coming together when their parents come together to form a new family |
| Parish | A small administrative district typically having its own church and a priest  |
| Family planning | The controlling of the number of children one has and the intervals between their births, particularly by means of contraception or voluntary sterilization |
| Artificial contraception | The deliberate use of unnatural methods or other techniques to prevent pregnancy as a consequence of sexual intercourse  |
| Situation ethics | A decision-making should be based upon the circumstances of a particular situation, and not upon fixed Law. The only absolute is Love. Love should be the motive behind every decision. Joseph Fletcher |
| Divorce | The legal ending of a marriage |
| Annulment | The declaration by the Church that a marriage was never a true marriage so the partners are free to marry |
| Remarriage | Marrying more than once |
| Equality | The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities |
| Gender discrimination | Believing that one sex is superior to the other based on a feeling rather than the assessment of evidence |
| Gender prejudice | Putting gender prejudice into action and treating people differently because of their gender |
| Theology of the body | Theology of the Body is the topic of a series of 129 lectures given by Pope John Paul II during his Wednesday audiences in St. Peter's Square and the Paul VI Audience Hall between September 5, 1979 and November 28, 1984 |