

GCSE



CCEA GCSE GLOSSARIES
Religious Studies

Unit 6: An Introduction to
Christian Ethics



For first teaching from September 2017

GCSE Religious Studies Glossary

Abortion	Deliberate ending of a pregnancy; intentional destruction of the foetus from the womb to cause its death.
Absolute poverty	A condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services.
Accord	A marriage guidance service for Catholics.
Active euthanasia	The intentional act of causing the death of a patient.
Adoption	The legal process by which a child gains new parents other than his or her birth parents.
Adultery	Sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their husband/wife.
Agapé	A Greek word for 'love'; a Christian love which is practical and goes beyond duty.
Ageism	Discrimination against someone because of age.
Annulment	To declare that a marriage never actually took place.
Artificial Insemination	The injection of semen into the vagina or uterus by means of a syringe rather than by sexual intercourse.
Assisted dying	The practice whereby a person suffering from a terminal illness or incurable condition is helped to take their own life, especially by means of lethal drugs provided by a doctor for the purpose.
Assisted suicide	Suicide with the help of another person, especially the taking of lethal drugs provided by a doctor for the purpose by a patient suffering from a terminal illness or incurable condition.
Bioethics	The study of the ethical and moral implications of new biological discoveries and biomedical advances, as in the fields of genetic engineering and drug research.
Biological weapons	A harmful biological agent is used as a weapon to cause death or disease.
Capital Punishment	To be sentenced and put to death for a crime.
Celibacy	Remaining unmarried and without sexual relations for religious reasons.

Chastity	To abstain from sexual relations.
Chemical weapons	A chemical or poison is used as a weapon to burn or paralyse humans or harm the natural environment.
Civilian	A person not in the armed services or the police force.
Conception	The fertilization of a female egg by a male sperm.
Co-habitation	The state of living together and having a sexual relationship without being married.
Contraception	The deliberate use of (artificial) methods or other techniques to prevent pregnancy.
Crime	An act that breaks the law of the land.
Deterrence	The act of deterring people from doing something or performing some action, such as committing a crime.
Disability	A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities.
Discrimination	To act unfairly towards a person or group of people; to put prejudice into action; to exclude people from equal treatment.
Divorce	The legal ending of a marriage.
Economic costs	The amount of money spent carrying out an action.
Embryo	The earliest stage of development in a human life; a fertilised egg in its first weeks.
Eros	A Greek word for love; sexual love or desire.
Equality	Everyone should be treated equally and given the same rights; identical cases should be treated in the same way.
Euthanasia	The intentional ending of a life; usually to relieve suffering.
Fair Trade	Trade between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries in which fair prices are paid to the producers.
Feminism	The belief that women should have equal rights; the movement that promotes gender equality.
Fertility	The ability to conceive children.
Fidelity	Being faithful to one sexual partner.

Foetus	A stage of human development in the womb; between the embryonic stage and birth.
Forgive	To stop feeling angry or resentful towards someone for something they have done wrong.
Fostering	Temporarily looking after a child until the child returns to his or her own family or until a suitable adoptive parent is found.
Gender	The state of being male or female.
Global	Relating to the whole world; worldwide.
Heterosexual	A person who is sexually attracted to someone of the opposite sex.
Holy war	A religious war.
Homosexual	A person who is sexually attracted to someone of the same sex.
Hospice	A place that cares for the terminally ill.
Human costs	The effects on the people involved such as in a war.
Infertility	Inability to conceive children naturally.
Inter-church marriage	A Christian marriage between a man and a woman who belong to different denominations, e.g. a Presbyterian and a Catholic.
Involuntary euthanasia	A person wants to live but is killed anyway. This is usually murder.
IVF (In vitro fertilisation)	The fertilisation of an egg (ovum) with sperm in a test tube.
Just War	The idea that war in certain circumstances is justifiable; must meet certain criteria.
Lesbian	A female who is sexually attracted to someone of the same sex.
Living will	Also known as an advance directive; a legal document stating how a person would wish to be treated if they could not communicate this to a doctor.
Local	Existing in or belonging to the area where you live, or to the area that you are talking about.
Marginalised	People who do not fit in with the rest of society and are pushed to one side and not treated equally.
Marriage	The legally recognised union of two people as partners in a personal relationship.

Mercy killing	A term used for euthanasia.
Miscarriage	The premature birth of a baby too young to survive.
Monogamy	The idea of having only one sexual partner.
National	Relating to or characteristic of a nation; common to a whole nation.
Non-voluntary euthanasia	The person cannot make a decision or cannot make their wishes known regarding euthanasia.
Nuclear deterrence	The military doctrine that an enemy will be deterred from using nuclear weapons as long as he can be destroyed as a consequence.
Pacifism	Belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means.
Pacifist	A person who believes that war and violence are unjustifiable.
Palliative care	Medical, emotional and spiritual care for the terminally ill and their families.
Passive euthanasia	Withdrawing medical treatment with the deliberate intention of causing the patient's death.
Prejudice	A negative view of someone based on an unfounded or unreasonable belief; can lead to acts of discrimination.
Pre-marital sex	Sex before marriage.
Pro-Choice	The view that abortion should be legal and freely available to those women who wish to terminate their pregnancy.
Pro-Life	The view that abortion is wrong and that all human life must be valued, including the lives of unborn children.
Racism	To show hatred, unfairness or even violence to people because of their race; the idea that one race is superior to another.
Rape	To force a person to have sex against his or her will.
Refugee	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
Registrar	Person who makes official record of births, marriages and deaths.
Reform	To make better or improve; one of the aims of punishment.

Relate	A marriage guidance association.
Relative poverty	The condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they live.
Reparation	To make amends for something you have done wrong.
Repentance	To admit to a wrongdoing and to say sorry.
Reproductive technologies	The use of technology to assist human reproduction in the treatment of infertility.
Restorative justice	An alternative form of dealing with crime by engaging both offender and victim in talking through what has happened.
Retribution	A punishment that fits the crime and equals the injury inflicted.
Right to life	Belief that people or animals have a right to be born and kept alive.
Sanctity of life	The belief that all life is precious and sacred.
Sexism	To act unfairly to someone because of their gender.
Singleness	To be without a sexual or marriage partner.
Stereotype	The idea that a person shares all (usually negative) characteristics of a group to which it is assumed they belong.
Surrogacy	When another woman carries and gives birth to a baby for a couple who want to have a child but are unable to themselves.
Uterus	The female organ in which the embryo develops. Also known as the womb.
Voluntary Euthanasia	When the person who is killed has requested to be killed.
Viability	The stage at which a foetus can survive outside the womb; currently 24 weeks of pregnancy in the UK.
Vindication	The action of clearing someone of blame or suspicion.
Virgin	Someone who has never had sexual relations.
Vocation	The Christian belief that God calls people to a certain job.
Vows	Promises, usually relating to baptism or marriage.
Wedding	A ceremony carried out in church or registry office through which two people become married.

