

# Year 9 Religious Education Vocabulary List

## *(Tier 2 and Tier 3)*



### **Religion and life**

**Abortion** - Deliberate ending of a pregnancy, intended to prevent new life.

**Big Bang Theory** - Scientific theory about the origins of the universe – that the universe was created in a huge explosion.

**Creation** - Belief that God created the world/universe from nothing.

**Conception** - Point at which sperm fertilises an egg to begin pregnancy.

**Conservation** - The practice of repairing/protecting the natural environment and/or animal species.

**Dominion** - Belief that humans have been given control/charge of the world.

**Euthanasia** - Mercy killing; ending the life of a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness. Can be voluntary (person seeks this), or non-voluntary (person is on life support so family makes decision). Can be active (what is done kills directly), or passive (medical support removed to allow natural death).

**Evolution** - Scientific theory of the development of species, which comprises natural selection and survival of the fittest.

**Hospice** - Place of medical care for the dying, but which also gives emotional support to the dying and their families.

**Pro-life** - Stance of being anti-abortion and/or anti-euthanasia; many pressure groups exist with this view, eg SPUC.

**Pro-choice** - Stance of being for a woman's right to decide what happens to her own body, which extends to the right to have an abortion.

**Quality of life** - How good or comfortable a person's life is.

**Sanctity of life** - Belief that life is sacred/special, because it was created by God, or because we are each unique individuals.

**Stewardship** - Duty given by God to mankind to look after the created world, and all life within it.

**Sustainable energy** - Resources that are renewable and will not run out, eg solar, wind, etc.

### The existence of God and revelation

**Agnostic** - Belief that there is insufficient evidence to say whether God exists or not.

**Atheism** - Belief that there is no God.

**Benevolent** - Characteristic of God; all-loving.

**Design argument** - Also known as teleological argument. An argument purporting to prove God's existence by focusing on evidence of design in the world, which therefore proves the existence of a designer – God. One version put forward by William Paley in the 18th century.

**First cause argument** - An argument purporting to prove God's existence by logical argument that everything is caused by something else. This requires an uncaused cause, which must be God. One version put forward by Thomas Aquinas in 13th century.

**General revelation** - Indirect revelation; the idea of being able to see something of God through nature, for example.

**Illusion** - That something is not real, but a trick of the mind.

**Immanent** - Characteristic of God; at work in the world, involved in the creation.

**Miracle** - An event that contradicts the laws of nature, so should be impossible, usually attributed to God.

**Omniscient** - Characteristic of God; all-knowing.

**Omnipotent** - Characteristic of God; all-powerful.

**Revelation** - When God reveals Himself; can be special or general.

**Transcendent** - Characteristic of God; beyond space and time, controlled by neither.

**Vision** - Seeing something which is not physically real.

## **EXAM QUESTIONS**

**Contrast** – note and explain the difference between beliefs or practices

**Evaluate** – examine a claim/statement methodically and in detail, in order to assess and form different arguments, recognising opposing points of view. Would include the ability to use scripture and sources of authority to defend claims.

**Explain** – make something clear or easy to understand by describing or giving information/examples about it. Often useful to use the link word 'because' to transform descriptions into explanations. Where appropriate show how beliefs influence individuals, communities and societies.

**Give** – simply state facts