



GCSE Religious Studies Revision Booklet (Condensed Version)

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This booklet does not contain all that you will need for your R.S. exams. It is a brief overview of all the key-words from the Nelson Thornes AQA books, that you should know and includes a few quotes for each topic. For a more comprehensive revision guide, please use the full booklet, as provided by Miss Iqbal.

Good Luck
Mr Oliver

Top Tips

- **NEVER** write 'religious people'. **ALWAYS**, say 'some Christians' or 'most Muslims'.
- **NEVER** write 'Christians think...'. **ALWAYS** write 'some Christians think...'. This shows the examiner that you know there are a range of different views within the religion.
- **NEVER** write 'Muslims think...'. **ALWAYS** write 'most Muslims think...'. This shows the examiner that you know there are a range of different views within the religion.
- **ALWAYS** write as much as you can even if you are not sure – they can't take marks away if it is wrong, and you will gain marks if it is correct.
- **NEVER** make up fake Bible or Qur'an quotations – the examiners are not stupid!
- If a question asks what a religious person might do in a certain situation, if you can't think of anything else, write that they might pray.
- **ALWAYS** stick to the time allowed – 20 minutes per topic.
- **ALWAYS** explain why you have used a quote. When you write a quote, always then write: 'This means...'
- As a general rule, avoid writing about terrorists (e.g. ISIS - because they do not interpret the Qur'an or act in the same way as most Muslims).

Things to Remember

- **Remember** if you are not sure what a Christian would do in a particular situation, they would usually pray, read the Bible, try to do what Jesus did and perhaps ask a priest for advice. You can include these ideas in lots of different questions
- **Remember** to use the word **because** a lot in longer answers – this will show that you are explaining and developing your answers, which gets higher marks.

Useful things that might help you out in several topic areas:

The 10 Commandments

Christians follow the 10 commandments for a moral way of living:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods
2. Thou shalt not worship false idols
3. Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness (lie)
10. Thou shalt not covet (envy)

Parables (stories with meanings) that you could refer to from the Bible

- The widow who gave a penny
- The good samaritan
- The sheep and the goats
- The prodigal son

The Five Pillars of Islam

Muslims try to follow the five pillars to uphold their faith:

1. Shahada - Declaration of Faith (*'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his Messenger.'*)
2. Salah - Prayer (Usually 5 times a day, which reminds Muslims of God's presence. This helps Muslims to be encouraged to live good lives.)
3. Sawm - Fasting (Usually takes place during the month of Ramadan. Fasting helps teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor.)
4. Zakat - Charity (giving 2.5% of wealth to charity purifies remaining wealth if it is earned through honest work... not gambling.)
5. Hajj - Pilgrimage (A religious journey to Mecca with variety of rituals including wearing a white garment to show equality and throwing stones at the devil to reject sin.)

Religious Attitudes to the elderly and death

Death	The end of life, which can be determined in several ways, but normally when the brain stops functioning.
Heaven	A state of being with God after death.
Hell	A state of being without God after death (or being with the Devil).
Purgatory	A time of spiritual cleansing and preparation for heaven.
Ageism	Prejudice and discrimination against the elderly.
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inducing a painless death, by agreement and with compassion, to ease suffering. <p>If euthanasia happens, it can be passive or active:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> passive – this is either where the dose of a pain-killing drug, such as morphine, is increased in the belief that it will not only control pain but also shorten life, or where treatment is withheld or withdrawn because all it is doing is delaying the natural process of dying. Active – withholding treatment with the deliberate ending of life or giving a drug that will end life. <p>There are three types of euthanasia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary – the person asks a doctor to end their life. Non-voluntary – the person is too ill to ask but it is believed to be in their best interests. Involuntary – as happened in Nazi Germany, disabled and sick people were killed without consultation. <p>Against euthanasia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the main arguments against euthanasia (not just a religious reason) is that elderly or ill people might feel as though they have a duty to die so that they are not a burden on their relatives.
Life-support machine	A machine that keeps people alive when they would otherwise die.
Mourning	A period of time in which signs of grief are shown.
Hospice	A special place to which people go to die with dignity. Spiritual needs also catered for.
Quality of life	A measure of fulfilment. e.g. is someone free from pain to live a 'normal' life?

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- Honour your father and your mother.*
- Love one another as I have loved you.*
- Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy them.*
- Thou shalt not murder.*
- Rescue those who are being taken away to death*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- The Lord hath decreed that ye be kind to parents.*
- Do not take life - which Allah has made sacred - except for just cause.*
- Neither kill nor destroy yourself.*

Religious attitudes to drug abuse

Drug	A substance which, when taken, affects the body or mind.
Prescription drugs	Drugs legally obtained only with a doctor's consent.
Drug abuse	Using drugs in a way that harms the user.
Illegal drugs	Drugs which are illegal to possess, sell or use, put into three classifications according to their potential harm and addictiveness. Examples: Class A - Heroin; Class B - Cannabis; Class C - Anabolic Steroids.
Social drugs	Legal drugs which are still addictive, such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, etc.
Legal drugs	Drugs that can be purchased legally. Some have age restrictions.
Solvents	Some aerosols, glue and gas lighter refills abused by sniffing, which can cause hallucinations and can be fatal.
Caffeine	A mild legal stimulant found in coffee, chocolate, etc.
Cannabis	A class B drug which is usually smoked, which some wish to be legalised.
Tobacco	Used in cigarettes and cigars, it contains nicotine - an addictive social drug.
Alcohol	An addictive social drug found in beer, wine, spirits, etc.
Rehabilitation (rehab.)	A process by which addicts are helped to defeat their addiction (usually to drugs or alcohol).

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy them.*
- *The authorities that exist have been established by God. (meaning: obey the law)*
- *Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.*
- *Your body is a temple.*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *Make not your own hands contribute to your destruction.*
- *Concerning wine and gambling... in them is great sin... the sin is greater than the profit.*

Religious attitudes to crime and punishment

Crime against the person	Wrongdoing that directly harms a person e.g. murder, assault.
Crime against property	Damaging items that belong to somebody else e.g. vandalism.
Crime against the state	An offence aimed at damaging government or a country e.g. treason
Religious offence	An offence against religion e.g. blasphemy, sacrilege.
Aim of punishment 1 - Protection	Keeping the public from being harmed, threatened or injured by criminals.
Aim of punishment 2 - Retribution	To get your own back: 'an eye for an eye'
Aim of punishment 3 - Deterrence	To put people off committing crimes.
Aim of punishment 4 - Reformation (reform)	To change someone's behaviour for the better.
Aim of punishment 5 - Vindication	Offenders must be punished to show the law must be respected.
Aim of punishment 6 - Reparation	To help an offender to put something back into society.
Causes of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social causes (abusive parents, poverty, excluded from school, addictions) • Environmental causes (local gang warfare, bad housing/neighbours, unemployment) • Psychological causes (mental illness)
Conscience	The inner feeling you are doing right or wrong.
Repentance	Being truly sorry and trying to change your behaviour so as not to do the same again.
Death penalty	Capital punishment; form of punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for crimes committed.
Community service	Unpaid work that an offender performs for the benefit of the local community rather than going to prison.
Probation	An alternative to prison where an offender has to meet regularly with a probation officer to ensure that they do not re-offend. Movement may be restricted.
Parole	When a prisoner is released without having completed their full sentence (usually for good behaviour in prison).
Early release	When a prisoner is allowed out of jail early even though they have not completed their sentence or fulfilled the criteria for parole.
Life imprisonment	A prison sentence that (theoretically) keeps people in jail until they die.
Young offender	A person under the age of 18 who has broken the law. You are legally responsible for your crimes from the age of 10 (by which point it is assumed you know the difference between right and wrong).

Notes

- Avoid writing about terrorists. The topic is too extreme and usually results in incorrect answers.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *An eye for an eye (old testament)*
- *Turn the other cheek (new testament)*
- *The authorities that exist have been established by God. (meaning: obey the law)*
- *If your brother sins, rebuke him, if he repents, forgive him.*
- *Thou shalt not murder.*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *When ye judge between man and man, judge with justice.*
- *As for the thief, male or female, cut off their hands: a punishment by way of an example.*
- *If anyone is killed unjustly, we have granted the right of retribution to his heir.*

Religious attitudes to the rich and poor in British society

Wealth	A large amount of money or investments.
Poverty	Being without money, food or other basic needs of life (being poor).
Debt	Situation where a person or organisation owes more money than they possess.
Inheritance	When a friend or family member leaves you money or property in their will when they die.
Excessive salaries	Also known as 'fat cat' salaries, large amounts of money earned, plus possibly bonuses and share options.
Poverty trap	Not being able break out of poverty.
Minimum wage	The legal amount which must be paid to a worker in the UK (currently just over £6.50 per hour).
Charity - definition 1 (an act)	Giving to the needy.
Charity - definition 2 (an organisation)	An organisation that does not work for profit and which usually works to helps others.
The Salvation Army	An example of a Christian group who look after the poor and needy.
National Lottery (Lotto)	Regular gambling competition, available to over-16s and which offers large prizes but also gives money to charity.
Personal wealth	Money, possessions and investments owned by an individual person.
Zakat	One of the 5 Pillars of Islam. Muslims are encouraged to give 2.5% of their money to charity. By doing so, the rest of their personal wealth is made pure.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Love one another as I have loved you.*
- *Love your neighbour as yourself.*
- *You cannot serve both God and money.*
- *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- ***Richness does not lie in abundance or worldly goods, but true richness is the richness of the soul.*** (Hadith)
- ***Wine and games of chance are abominations devised by Satan. Avoid them, so that you may prosper.***
- ***No one eats better food than that which they have earned with their own labours.***

Religion and animal rights

Sanctity of life	Life is sacred because it is God-given.
Animal welfare organisations	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Extinction	When all members of a species have died out and that species will never exist on Earth.
Free-range farming	Farming that allows the animals to roam free and behave naturally.
Factory farming	When animals are used for meat or dairy products, but are kept indoors in very small spaces.
Vegetarianism	the belief held by people who do not eat meat.
Vegan	A person who will not use any animal product.
Fur trade	The business of farming or hunting wild animals for their fur to be made into clothing.
Ivory trade	The sale of ivory from elephant tusks, often illegally.
Animal experiments	Testing on animals, either for medical or cosmetic purposes, to ensure that the product is safe for use by humans.
Genetic modification	Plants and animals that have had their natural make-up altered by scientists.
Cloning	The scientific method by which animals or plants can be created which have exactly the same genetic makeup as the original, because the DNA of the original is used.
Stewardship	The religious idea that humans are responsible for the world and should take care of it.
Dominion	The idea that humans are in control over other beings on the planet.
Pets	Most religions do not forbid pets but in Islam animals must not be kept in limited spaces unless they are a working animal such as a guard dog.

- Muslims can not eat pigs as it is forbidden in the Qur'an. Also, all other animals must be slaughtered in a painless way whilst prayers are offered to Allah (halal).
- Christians and Muslims believe that humans, who have been created with a greater intellect than animals, have a special responsibility to be fair, just and kind to all other living things.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Everything that lives and moves will be food for you.*
- *Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.* (This means humans have dominion).
- *Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.* (This means Christians believe animals and birds are valuable to God)
- *Let them (humans) have dominion... over all the earth.*
- The righteous care for the needs of their animals

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *It is Allah Who has provided you livestock of every kind. You can ride some kinds and others you can eat'*

Religion and prejudice

Stereotyping	Having an over-simplified mental image of people and applying it to everyone in the group.
Discrimination	Actions as a result of prejudice.
Prejudice	Thinking badly of someone because of the group he/she belongs to.
Positive discrimination	Treating people more favourably because they have been discriminated against in the past.
Scapegoating	Blaming certain groups for problems in society.
Disability	Physical or mental handicap or impairment.
Lifestyle	The way people live reflects their values and attitudes.
Tolerance	Respecting the beliefs and practices of others.
Justice	Bringing about what is right, fair, according to the law or making up for what has been done wrong.
Harmony	Living in peace with others.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Love one another as I have loved you.*
- *Love your neighbour as yourself.*
- *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *Allah does not look at your outward appearance; He looks upon your hearts and your deeds.* (Hadith)
- *A white has no superiority over a black, nor a black over a white.* (Muhammad's pbuh last sermon)
- *Treat your wives well and be kind to them, for they are your partners and committed helpers.* (Muhammad's pbuh last sermon)

Famous figures who stood up against prejudice:

- Martin Luther King - A Christian who stood up for black people against racial prejudice in America by organising a bus boycott, delivering several speeches and organising non-violent campaigns.
- Rosa Parks - A Christian who stood up for equality between black and white people in America by refusing to sit at the back of a bus.
- Malcolm X - A Muslim campaigner for equality. He delivered several powerful speeches

regarding black and white equality in America. He organised protests, some of which were violent.

Religion and early life

Miracle of life	The idea that life is wonderful, amazing or special.
Blessing	The idea that God has favoured a couple with a child.
Sanctity of life	Life is sacred because it is God-given (Christians and Muslims believe this).
Conception	When sperm meets egg.
Viable	The point at which a foetus could survive if it were to be born.
Quality of life	A measure of fulfilment. e.g. is someone free from pain to live a 'normal' life?
Abortion	The deliberate termination (ending) of a pregnancy, usually before the foetus is 24 weeks old and viable.
Pro-choice	In favour of a woman's right to choose an abortion.
Pro-life	Opposed to abortion; in favour of the life of the foetus.
Pressure groups	Collections of people who campaign for changes in society and to the law. Pro life = SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) Pro choice = Abortion Rights UK
Alternatives to abortion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keeping the baby 2. Adoption - the legal process where a child is taken into a family as son or daughter (not common with Muslim families due to no blood ties). 3. Fostering - the taking of a child from a different family and bringing them up with the rest of the family (can be short or long term)
The Law	The law allows abortions up until 24 weeks as long as two doctors agree to one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The mother might die ● The baby might have severe disabilities ● Danger to the mother's health (mental or physical) ● Danger to the health of the mother's other children.

- Some Christians (particularly Roman Catholics) believe that life begins at conception.
- Some Christians (particularly Methodists) allow abortion in cases of rape, poverty, severe disability or risk to the life or health of the mother.
- Most Muslims believe that life begins at 120 days when the foetus receives a soul.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Love one another as I have loved you.*
- *Thou shalt not kill*
- *Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *No severer of womb-relationship ties will ever enter paradise.* This means that if a Muslim has an abortion, they might not get to heaven.
- *You shall not kill your children for fear of want.* This means that Muslims should not have abortions because they think they can't afford to provide for their children.

Religion, war and peace

Peace	An absence of conflict which leads to happiness and harmony.
Justice	Bringing about what is right, fair, according to the law or making up for what has been done wrong.
Sanctity of life	Life is sacred because it is God-given (Christians and Muslims believe this).
Pacifism	The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.
Quakers	A Christian group who believe in pacifism.
Just war	A war that the some Christians define as acceptable: this must fit certain criteria e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just cause e.g. self-defence,• Lawfully declared e.g. by the United Nations,• Be a last resort (other strategies such as negotiations failed)• Have a reasonable chance of success.• Have a good intention e.g. to establish peace or fight evil.• Proportional force (avoiding excessive force and avoiding killing civilians)
Holy war	Fighting for a religious cause or God probably controlled by a religious leader.
Jihad	Greater Jihad - the internal struggle to be a good person/muslim Lesser Jihad - being prepared to fight for Islam (holy war)
Terrorism	The use of violence and intimidation tactics to further a political or religious ideal.
Refugees	People who flee from their homes seeking safety elsewhere.
Red Cross	A humanitarian agency that helps people suffering from war or other disasters.
Red Crescent	Same as Red Cross but found predominantly in Muslim countries.
United Nations (UN)	An organisation set up at the end of World War 2, to prevent war by discussing problems between countries.
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	An alliance formed to prevent war in Europe.
Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)	Weapons that can kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage e.g. nuclear bomb.
Proliferation	Spreading to other countries and getting more numerous.

Christian (Bible) quotes:

- *Thou shalt not kill*
- *Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God.* This quote supports Just war because the ultimate aim of a Just War is to create peace.
- If you forgive others... your heavenly father will forgive you.
- *An eye for an eye (old testament)*
- *Turn the other cheek (new testament)*

Muslim (Qur'an) quotes:

- *If anyone is killed unjustly, we have granted the right of retribution to his heir.*
- *Paradise is for... those who curb their anger and forgive their fellow man.*
- *The person who struggles so that Allah's word is supreme is the one serving Allah's cause.* (Hadith)
This quote supports Holy War.
- *'Fight in the name of Allah those who fight but do not transgress limits... if they cease, let there be no hostility'*

Example of a religious believer who worked for peace

- Irena Sendler - A Christian (Catholic) social worker who helped Jews escape from the Nazis during WW2.

Example of a religious believer who was a pacifist but resorted to violent methods

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer - A Christian pacifist who eventually resorted violent methods to try to assassinate Hitler and to stop the Nazis.