

God's Qualities		✓
Monotheist	Christians are monotheistic and believe there is only one God.	
Trinity	The concept of God being The Father (to Jesus and to all of creation), The Son (Jesus), and The Holy Spirit.	
Omnipotent	<i>All-powerful</i> (sometimes Christians use the word ' <i>almighty</i> ' too). So, God can do anything, or, to say it a different way, there is nothing that God cannot do!	
Omniscient	<i>All-knowing</i> - i.e. God knows everything that can be known.	
Omni-benevolent	<i>All-loving</i> and the source of all goodness.	
Eternal	God has no beginning or end- he always has and always will exist.	
Transcendent	God is not like anything else- he is unimaginably different to/other than all that he has made.	
Immanent	Personal, and can be known. Even though God is transcendent, omnipresent and omnipotent, he can be known by people because he is near (immanent).	
Holy	God is morally perfect and has no sin in him at all.	
Judge	God will judge all people on the way they have lived their lives. The judgement God passes on each person will determine what happens to them after they die.	
Merciful	<i>Forgiving</i> - Although God is the holy judge of all people, he is merciful and will completely forgive those who ask for forgiveness.	

God's Relationship with the Universe and Humanity		✓
Creation	Christians believe that the universe we live in was made by God and that its vastness, beauty and complexity point to God's power, creativity and eternal nature.	
Revelation/ The Word	Christians believe that the special place where Jesus can be met is in the writings of the Bible and this is called special revelation .	
Fundamentalist/Literalist	Many Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and so it should be understood literally, for example, when the Bible and modern science seem to contradict each other, the Bible has the most authority. Christians who see the Bible as containing literal truth are sometimes called fundamentalists , or literalists . Many Protestant and Charismatic Christians are fundamentalists.	
Liberal Interpretation of Scripture	Liberal Christians see the stories in the Bible as ' myths ' or as symbolism. Liberal Christians, for example, do not believe that it took six literal days for God to create the universe and some of them do not believe it is necessary to believe in the literal and physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead.	
Conservative Interpretation of Scripture	Conservative Christians believe that although God inspired the words of the Bible, the people he used were imperfect and so made some mistakes when writing. Conservative Christians believe that when attempting to understand what the Bible is saying in a particular passage, the reader should always take into consideration the time in which the passage was written. For example, the Bible gives instructions for slaves and masters, but in the modern world slavery is bad. Such Christians believe that the Bible may need reinterpreting so that it is understood better in a modern world.	

Stewardship	God gave humans a special responsibility to rule and steward over all creation.	
Salvation	A central belief of the Christian faith is that Jesus came to rescue or save humans.	
Law	From the beginning God gave humans guidelines to follow and encouraged people to choose what is right in life. Originally there was only one commandment (in which God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), and later God gave his people Israel the Ten Commandments. Remember- it is only humans that are given commandments and guidelines from God that they should follow).	
Sacrifice	Jesus came to die on the cross to pay the price for the sin of humanity. God sacrificed his only Son for humanity.	

The Nature of Reality: Evidence for God		✓
Theist	Someone who believes in a god or gods.	
Atheist	Someone who does not believe in a god or gods.	
Agnostic	Someone who neither believes or disbelieves in a god since there is no evidence to prove or disprove such an existence.	
Teleological Argument	Also Known as The Argument from Design. It is a philosophical argument which states that the complexity and pattern in the universe, suggests that it must have been designed and that the designer is God.	
Ingenious design	Intelligent design.	

William Paley	William Paley developed a version of The Teleological Argument which used <i>The Watch Analogy</i> to demonstrate how things in nature seem to have been designed. He said that when we look at a watch, we can tell that it has been designed to carry out a specific function. He said that when we look at things in nature, they too seem to have been designed to carry out specific functions, an eye to see, a wing to fly etc.	
John Stuart Mill	John Stuart Mill argued that if God is the designer of the Universe, he must be a bad designer, since there are so many mistakes in His design. Either he is not all-loving and all-powerful or He did not design the universe.	
Charles Darwin	Charles Darwin's theory of Evolution threatened the idea of a designer God, as he could now explain adaptations such as eyes and wings through the process of <i>natural selection</i> .	
Anthropic Principle	The Greek word 'anthropos' means 'man' and the name 'anthropic principle' helps us to remember that the universe has been created for humans. The Anthropic Principle believes that the universe was made by God with human beings specifically in mind and because the universe had to be perfectly fine tuned to bring about human life, this could not be just a coincidence.	
The Cosmological Argument	Also known as <i>The First Cause Argument</i> , it is a philosophical argument which states that; everything that exists has a cause; the universe must also have a cause and that cause is God.	
Thomas Aquinas	Thomas Aquinas developed a version of the cosmological argument.	
Uncaused Cause	Thomas Aquinas called God an uncaused, cause or an unmoved mover. He explained that God was outside the laws of the universe and unlike all of creation does need a cause. He said 'God just is.'	
The Big Bang	Those who argue against the cosmological argument usually point to 'The Big Bang Theory' to explain the origins of our universe but theists will argue that it was God that made The Big Bang go 'Bang!'	
The Problem of Evil and Suffering	A philosophical argument which argues against the existence of God. Many atheists will argue that there is so much evil and suffering in the world that an all-loving, all-powerful god cannot exist.	

Freewill	The idea that God gave us free will to decide to do good or bad, in order that He can judge us. Humans choose to do bad things and that is why evil and suffering exist.	
The Fall	Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God the consequences of their disobedience (i.e. death, suffering and pain) affect every human that came after them. Humans brought evil into the world.	
Natural Evil	Evil caused by natural events such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and famine.	
Moral Evil	Evil caused by humans such as murder, rape, theft and neglect.	
Test of Faith	In the Bible God tests Job's faith by putting him through extreme suffering. Some argue that suffering is a test of faith.	
Moral Argument	A philosophical argument which states that our moral conscience, that voice inside our head, telling us right from wrong, is proof of God's existence.	
Conscience	An internal understanding of what is morally right and wrong.	
Cardinal John Newman	He said our conscience is evidence of the existence of God because we often feel we are responsible to a higher authority.	
Freud	A famous psychologist, who argued that our conscience is the result of 'social condition	
Edward Wilson	A famous social biologist, says that moral knowledge has evolved as a way of protecting humans. He says we are programmed like computers to make the right choices for our survival.	
Ethical Living	Jackie Pullinger says that when a person chooses to give up their own time and energy to help others this is evidence of God. When we make ethical decisions about our world and our place in the world, this too is evidence of God.	
Religious Experience	Christians believe that God made humans so that they could know him and because of this they believe there are different ways in which God can be experienced. We have already thought about human conscience being an area in which humans can experience God, and we also looked at examples of people who have experienced God in visions or healings, or other powerful ways.	

Conversion	Such religious experiences can happen in dreams or visions or they can be an overwhelming mystical experience that causes the person having the experience to be filled with awe and wonder. Such an experience can lead to a person's conversion after which they have a totally new sense of direction in their life and a new sense of purpose and hope.	
St Paul the Apostle	Perhaps the most well known conversion was that of Saul . Saul was a Jew, who was determined to see Christianity wiped out. On his way to Damascus to get papers signed that would allow him officially to persecute Christians, he had an encounter with the risen Jesus. Following this encounter in which he was blinded for three days, Saul became a Christian, changed his name to Paul, started churches all around the Mediterranean area, and wrote most of the New Testament.	
Charismatic and ecstatic experiences	Sometimes Christians claim to have ecstatic experiences in which they become less focused on the world around them and more focused on worshipping God. During such occasions some Christians may have visions . Charismatic Christians sometimes fall to the floor during such experiences (they call this being ' slain in the Spirit ') and although they experience a deep sense of peace or have a sense of floating or deep joy, even laughter, they are not unconscious.	
Glossolalia	Pentecostal Christians believe that following conversion the believer has a further experience of God during which the believer might speak in tongues .	
Sacrament	Sacraments are another way that many Christians, including those in Catholic and Orthodox churches, believe people experience God. A sacrament is "an outward act and sign of an inner and invisible grace."	
Miracles	Christians believe that one of the ways in which God showed the world that Jesus was his special Son was by completing miracles through him. For Christians one of the greatest miracles was the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Bible contains four types of miracles that Jesus did. During his ministry, Jesus raised people from the dead, opened blind eyes, enabled the mute to speak, helped the lame to walk, calmed storms, walked on water, fed 5000 people with five loaves and two fish, cast out demons. Christians believe that God still does miracles today.	

Healing miracles	Following prayer, a person recovers from an illness that the doctors said was incurable.	
Miracles of Nature	When natural elements act in a way that physics cannot explain, e.g. calming a storm through prayer.	
Raising the Dead	When someone who is declared medically dead returns to life after being prayed for.	
Exorcisms	Also known as 'casting out of demons'. When a person who is believed to be influenced by a controlling evil spirit is healed after being prayed for.	