

Aspirational Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Paganism	A modern spiritual or religious movement inspired by ancient pre-Christian beliefs, often nature-based.
Wicca	A modern Pagan religion involving witchcraft, nature worship, and rituals based on seasonal cycles.
Neo-Pagan	A term describing modern religious movements that draw on ancient pagan traditions.
Born Again Christian	A Christian who has had a spiritual rebirth and a renewed personal commitment to Jesus Christ.
Evangelical	A branch of Christianity that emphasises personal faith, the authority of the Bible, and spreading the gospel.
Scientology	A modern religion founded by L. Ron Hubbard that focuses on spiritual development through practices like auditing.
Auditing	A practice in Scientology aimed at clearing the mind of negative experiences from past lives.
Thetan	In Scientology, the term for the immortal spiritual self or soul.
Nature Worship	Religious or spiritual reverence for elements of the natural world, common in Pagan traditions.
Ritual	A set of actions performed for symbolic religious or spiritual purposes.

What is Paganism?

- Modern Paganism is a group of spiritual movements inspired by pre-Christian beliefs.
- It often involves a deep respect for nature, seasonal festivals, and ancient mythology.
- Paganism is not one unified religion but includes various paths like Druidry, Wicca, and Heathenry.

- It teaches that people are immortal spiritual beings (thetans) affected by past traumas.
- Members undergo 'auditing' to clear negative experiences and reach a higher state of awareness.

W is for Wicca

- Wicca is a modern Pagan religion involving witchcraft, rituals, and nature worship.
- It often involves celebrating the cycles of nature (Wheel of the Year) and honouring both a goddess and a god.
- Many Wiccans follow an ethical code called the Wiccan Rede: 'An it harm none, do what ye will.'

Born Again Christians

- Born again Christians believe in a personal, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The term comes from Jesus' teaching about spiritual rebirth in the Gospel of John.
- This experience often leads to a strong commitment to faith, evangelism, and Biblical teachings.

Scientology

- Scientology is a modern religion founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard in the 1950s.

Big Questions

- 1) Why do people turn to modern or alternative religions today?
- 2) How are Paganism and Wicca different from mainstream religions?
- 3) What does it mean to be 'born again' in Christianity?
- 4) Why is Scientology considered controversial by some people?
- 5) How do modern religions meet spiritual needs in the 21st century?

