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Knowledge organiser: Year 8 Unit 1: Creation and Covenant

Key words	COVENANT A solemn and binding promise based on love and faithfulness. The Bible tells of several covenants that God made with people. FREE WILL The ability to make choices without being controlled by any outside force. THE FALL The breakdown in God’s relationship with mankind, when man fell away from God’s grace. ORIGINAL SIN The title given to the first sin in the Bible; also, the tendency that all humans have to go against God. CONCUPISCENCE Strong desire or lust for something. SACRAMENT An outward sign of an inward Grace, instituted by Christ to make us holy. BAPTISM The first sacrament in the Catholic Church. It makes a person a member of the Church and forgives them of all sins. SINAI COVENANT The covenant made between God and Moses, on behalf of the people of Israel, on Mount Sinai. DECALOGUE The title given for the Ten Commandments: The list of laws given to Moses on Mount Sinai. RESPONSIBILITY Having a duty to do something or being accountable for something. CONSCIENCE A person’s moral sense of right and wrong, believed by Christians to be the voice of God.
Teacher assessed work	Written essay about covenants and their significance
Stretch and challenge	Original Sin: https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/beliefs/originalsin_1.shtml The Sinai Covenant, Exodus 19-20: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2019&version=NRSVCE The Rite of Baptism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRidVYr8zWs Conscience and action: https://catholicidentity.bne.catholic.edu.au/scripture/SitePages/Conscience-and-action.aspx?csf=1&e=M4qvq1 Sophie Scholl: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG8U8UydZNE

Covenants and Free Will	The Fall and Original Sin	The Decalogue and the Greatest Commandment	Baptism	Conscience	Conscience in Art
A covenant is a solemn and binding promise based on love and faithfulness. They are initiated by God and have a one-sided advantage for humans to live their lives to the full. God doesn’t get anything out of the covenants he makes with humans and he offers the possibility of forgiveness if a person breaks their side of a covenant. The Bible tells of several covenants that God made with people. The first covenant in the Bible is between God and Adam and Eve. They were made in the image of God so had the gift of free will. Adam and Eve had a choice whether they used their free will for good, leading them closer to God, or for bad, leading them away from God. Catholics believe that because of free will, humans have freedom to choose how they act. Their choices can lead to freedom from sin and its consequences, if they chose to do good. The rules God gives humans are part of our covenant with him. God gives us rules to follow because he loves us. The rules do not just show we are obedient to God but also help us to live a full and happy life.	‘Sin is a rejection of God and a refusal to accept God’s love’ YouCat 67 Genesis 1 and 2 tell us how God created a perfect world and humans in His image. Genesis 3 continues with this story with ‘The Fall’. It tells us how God gave rules to Adam and Eve which they chose to disobey. Catholics believe The Fall is a figurative story, so it is not to be read as true. Catholics read the story of the Fall as a symbolic story which helps to answer the question: Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Although Catholics do not believe the story of Adam and Eve is literally true, they do believe that at the beginning of humanity there was an event where humans chose themselves over God, and this altered human nature. All humans now share this shared ‘fallen nature’. We say that all humans have original sin – even though we did not commit it, it is passed onto us in our human nature. It is the urge to be selfish and disobey God which is part of human nature	The covenant God gave at Mount Sinai gave the Hebrews a set of 613 rules, telling them what they would have to do as part of their side of the bargain. God promised to stay with the Hebrews and never abandon them. For their part, the Hebrews must dedicate themselves to serving God for ever, making the world a better, holier place. The covenant is made with the people as a whole, not with each individual. The Decalogue is part of the Sinai Covenant which God gave to Moses. The Decalogue is the title given for the Ten Commandments: The ‘ten words’ or ‘ten sayings’ of God. The Decalogue can be split into 2 categories: those which show love for God e.g. Worship o other Gods, and those which show love for people e.g. do not steal. Matthew’s Gospel tells of how Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees to identify the ‘greatest’ commandment in the Torah. Jesus summarized the rules by saying the Greatest Commandment is to ‘Love God and love your neighbour as yourself’	Baptism is the first sacrament in the Catholic Church. It makes a person a member of the Church and forgives them of all sins. The main symbol is water; people are baptised to have their sins ‘washed away’ and to be reborn in Christ. The symbol of being cleansed of sin by water can be found in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, John the Baptist offered people a baptism of water to show repentance from their sins. When John baptised Jesus, Jesus was revealed to all as God’s son. It marked the beginning of Jesus’ ministry on earth. Jesus instructed his disciples to baptise all new Christians. Through baptism, Catholics receive God’s grace: 1. It purifies people from the effects of original sin 2. It cleanses a person of their personal sins 3. It marks the beginning of a new life as a Christian 4. It makes people part of the Body of Christ – Christ’s representative on earth. 5. It leaves people with an indelible mark – it cannot be taken away.	Conscience is the knowledge of right and wrong, which Christians believe is given by God. Part of humans being made imago dei (in the image of God) is that we have an intuitive knowledge of right and wrong, which leads to an instinctive desire to do good and avoid what is wrong. Gaudium et Spes 16: • The law of conscience is not the law made by humans, it is God’s law which is perfect and eternal. • God’s law is at the center of who humans are. • God will judge every person on whether or not they have listened to their conscience Catholics believe that all humans must make efforts to inform their conscience. This can be done by: Studying the Bible Studying the teachings of the Church Praying for guidance Receiving the sacraments Reflecting on their actions	Jojo Rabbit: a film about a boy who is a member of the Hitler Youth during WWII. The story shows Jojo’s transformation from an enthusiastic Nazi youth whose invisible best friend is Hitler, to a boy who sees through Nazism’s propaganda and recognizes its evil. Man Repels the Appeal of Conscience by Frederick James Shields: At the center of the painting is a male figure, representing humanity, who is shown turning away from a personification of Conscience. Conscience is often depicted as a gentle, pleading female figure. The rejection of Conscience by the man suggests a moment of moral crisis or a deliberate choice to ignore his conscience. Conscience in Practice Sophie Scholl was a Christian who lived in Germany during WWII. Her brother, Hans, began the White Rose movement – a non-violent resistance group which gave leaflets to people trying to convince them to oppose the Nazi regime. Sophie joined the movement. They were reported for distributing leaflets by a Nazi supporter. At first, the Gestapo had assumed Sophie was innocent but she followed her conscience and stood up for what she thought was right. She was beheaded for her crime.