ABSOLUTE  (1) That which is entirely independent, such as ultimate reality; (2) a demonstrated or self-evident, true principle or presupposition, such as a moral absolute.

ABSOLUTISM  (1) Belief in an ultimate reality that is without limitation; (2) the view that truth is objectively real, that there is only one correct explanation of reality, truth, and values.

A.D.  From the Latin anno Domini “in the year of Our Lord,” a Christian reckoning of the calendar years following Jesus’ birth. “C.E.” meaning “common era” is being used for the same period of time, but without reference to Christian theology. (See B.C.)

AD HOMINEM FALLACY  Faulty reasoning that shifts from an issue to a personality; from the Latin “to the man.”

AESTHETICS  That branch of philosophy concerned with art and the nature and work of art.

AFFECTIVE  Relating to emotion or feeling.

AGNOSTICISM  A profession of ignorance, especially the claim that it is impossible to demonstrate conclusively either the existence or nonexistence of God.

ANALYTIC STATEMENTS  Statements that simply express the meaning of one of their terms. (See TAUTOLOGY.)

ANIMISM  The primitive belief that nature is filled with innumerable spirits. All things are thought of as possessing a life somewhat akin to human life.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM  The attributing of human qualities to the nonhuman realm or to nature. The term may refer to the portrayal of God as having human form, characteristics, or limitations.

A POSTERIORI  A posteriori knowledge is based upon actual observation; from the Latin “from what comes after.”

A PRIORI  A priori refers to knowledge that is self-evident or refers to principles recognized to be true apart from observation or experience; from the Latin “from what comes before.”

ATHEISM  Denial of the existence of a personal God.

ATMAN  The Hindu concept of the soul or self after enlightenment. The true self of each individual is identical with Brahman. The true destiny of the self is the realization of union with Brahman.

AUTHORITARIANISM  The belief that knowledge, or some knowledge, is guaranteed or validated by some source; an uncritical acceptance of testimony as opposed to an independent effort to discover what is true or false.

AXIOLOGY  The branch of philosophy that deals with values.

B.C.  “Before Christ”—a Christian reckoning of the calendar years before Jesus’ birth. B.C.E., meaning “before the common era” is being used for the same period of time, but without reference to Christian theology.

B.C.E.  Before the common era. (See B.C. and A.D.)

BECOMING  To be in the process of coming into being.

BEGGING THE QUESTION  When one assumes as a premise for the argument the conclusion one intends to prove.

BEHAVIORISM  A theory of psychology which asserts that the proper subject matter of human psy-
chology is the observed behavior of the human
being.

BEING That which exists; sometimes used for the
infinite, God, or ultimate reality.

BHAGAVADGITA A particular Hindu scripture that
has the form of a dialogue between the hero Arjuna
and Krishna, an incarnation of the God Vishnu. The
most well known of the Hindu Scriptures; called the
Gita and the Song of the Lord. (Sometimes written
Bhagavad-Gita.)

BODHISATTVA A term used in Buddhism for a per-
son aspiring to enlightenment, one who is a Buddha-
to-be; a Buddhist wise and holy individual.

BRAHMAN The central concept in Hindu philoso-
phy of the impartial, supreme being or ultimate re-
ality. The primal source and ultimate goal of all be-
ings with which ATMAN, when enlightened, knows
itself to be identical. (See BRAHMIN.)

BRAHMIN The highest caste in Hinduism, 
sometimes transliterated as Brahman. (See Trans-
literation.)

C.E. The common era. (See A.D.)

CHRISTIANITY The religion of those who confess
Jesus as Lord and Messiah, including the Roman
Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, and Eastern Ortho-
doctrine.

CIVIL LIBERTIES Immunities from governmental
interference (e.g., freedom from arbitrary arrest) (See Civil rights.)

CIVIL RIGHTS Rights belonging to people by virtue
of their citizenship; “civil rights” sometimes encom-
passes and is often used interchangeably with
“civil liberties.”

COGNITION (COGNITIVE) The attainment of
knowledge of something; the mental process by
which we become aware of objects of perception;
thought.

COMMON SENSE A broad term used by philoso-
phers to mean a way of looking at things indepen-
dently of specialized knowledge or training; “com-
mon sense” is often uninformed opinion; the fund of
opinion each member of a group is expected to have.

CONATION (CONATIVE) The part of mental life
having to do with striving, including desiring
and willing.

CONCEPT A general idea, as distinct from a per-
ccept. I may have a concept of “man” or “humanity,”
but I have a percept when I see a particular man,
John Doe. We have perceptions of particular, experi-
enced objects; we have concepts of universals,
classes, and unexperienced objects.

CONCLUSION A proposition inferred from the
premises of an argument.

CONSCIOUSNESS Awareness of one’s own existence.

CONSEQUENCES The effects or results of some-
thing occurring earlier.

COSMOLOGY The study or theories of the origin,
nature, and development of the universe as an or-
derly system.

CREATIVITY The state of producing something
novel or original that will lead to further self-
realization (Whitehead).

CULT A system of religious beliefs and observances
or the group of persons who accept a system of reli-
gious beliefs; on the popular level, often used
pejoratively.

DARWINISM The Darwinian theory that the origin
of species is derived by descent, with variation, from
parent forms, through the natural selection of those
best adapted in the struggle for existence.

DECONSTRUCTION A philosophical and critical
movement, starting in the 1960s, that questions all
traditional assumptions about the ability of language
to represent reality.

DEDUCTION An inference in which the conclusion
follows necessarily from one or more premises. When
the conclusion does so follow, the deduction is said
to be valid.

DEISM A belief that affirms the existence of a God
who has created the universe but who remains apart
and permits His creation to administer itself through
natural laws—a view fairly prevalent in the seven-
teenth and eighteenth centuries; may be understood
as a version of theism.

DEONTOLOGICAL Refers to theories which hold
that right and wrong is determined by true and

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binding formal rules of conduct, independently of any consideration of consequences.

DESCRIPTIVE ETHICS The study of the ingredients of a moral situation, of the actual conduct of individuals, groups, and peoples.

DETERMINISM The view that human choice is entirely controlled by previous conditions or governed by causal laws. The realm of nature, including human beings, is an unbroken chain of cause and effect. (Sometimes called HARD DETERMINISM.)

DIALECTIC As most frequently used by philosophers, the critical analysis of ideas or conceptions to determine their meaning, implications, and presuppositions; the development of thought through an interplay of ideas. Also, a method of reasoning used by Socrates, Hegel, and others in which opposites are reconciled.

DIALOGIC Pertaining to or participating in dialogue.

DUALISM (1) The view that reality is composed of two different substances or realms, so that neither one can be reduced to the other (such as, spirit and matter). (2) In religion, DUALISM stresses the absolute difference between God and the rest of reality.

DUTY Doing what one ought to do.

EMPIRICISM (EMPIRICAL) The view that knowledge comes from experience or through the senses, in opposition to RATIONALISM.

ENLIGHTENMENT A philosophical period of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, characterized by belief in the power of human reason.

ENTITY Whatever has real existence or being; thing.

EPICUREANISM The doctrine that pleasure (as understood by Epicurus) or freedom from pain is the highest good in life.

EPIPHENOMENON (EPIPHENOMENAL) A phenomenon accompanying some brain processes.

EPISTEMOLOGY Theory of knowledge; the branch of philosophy that studies the sources, nature, and validity of knowledge.

ESSENCE The substance or intrinsic nature that makes a thing what it is. Ordinarily essence is considered distinct from existence.

ETHICAL MONOTHEISM The belief in one God who has revealed moral standards all must follow.

ETHICAL RELATIVISM The view that there are no fixed, universal moral values; also called moral relativism.

ETHICAL STANDARDS Principles or norms by which moral actions are judged right or wrong.

ETHICS The study of moral conduct. The term may also be applied to the system or code followed (such as “Buddhist ethics.”)

EVOCA TIVE From evoke; to call up or produce (memories, feelings, etc.).

EVOLUTION The theory of evolution is an interpretation of how the development of living forms has taken place. (See THEORY and HYPOTHESIS.)

EX CATHEDRA From the Latin “from the chair or seat”; used most frequently to designate the Pope’s infallible teachings on matters of faith and morals that are binding upon Roman Catholics; such pronouncements are different from “noninfallible” addresses, sermons, and so on.

EXISTENCE (1) For Thomists, existence is the act of being as ordinarily contrasted with essence; it is the state of occurring within space and time. (2) Existentialists use “existence” in a limited sense, so that to exist applies to personal experience and calls for creative commitment. (3) The term is often used as the opposite of ESSENCE.

EXISTENTIALISM An attitude and outlook in philosophy, theology, and the arts that stresses the human predicament or human feelings of anxiety, and emphasizes human existence and the qualities distinctive of individuals rather than humanity in the abstract or nature and the world in general.

EXTRINSIC VALUE A value or good that leads to another good; valued for something other than itself (such as a common pencil whose chief value is what it does, not what it is.)

FAITH An attitude of trust or confidence in a person, doctrine, system of beliefs and practices, or thing; faith may be informed or uninformed (naïve).

FALLACY OF OVERSIMPLIFICATION The uncritical attempt to explain everything with one principle or type of interpretation.
FALLACY OF REDUCTION  The belief that an object’s simpler units have a greater reality than the larger, complex object itself.

FATALISM  The belief that events are irrevocably fixed so that human effort cannot alter them, though sometimes things appear otherwise. “What will be, will be.”

FORMALISM  Adherence to prescribed forms. In ethics formalism means that certain types of acts follow fixed moral principles, apart from consideration of any particular situation or probable consequences.

FREE WILL  The position that human beings have some genuine power of alternate choice; the power of self-determination.

FUNDAMENTALISM  In religions, conservative views that include literal interpretations of scriptures as revealing God’s truths—and so yielding a fixed set of beliefs for all time.

HEBRAIC  Refers to beliefs rooted in or compatible with basic convictions of classical, pre-Christian Hebrew civilization. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are sometimes referred to as Hebraic religions.

HEDONISM  The term for various views that the chief good in life is pleasure.

HUMANISM  A general outlook that emphasizes distinctively human interests and ideals. The humanism of the Renaissance was based on the Greek classics; Christian humanism focuses on human concerns within a theological context; secular humanism underscores the significance of humanity as free agents independent of any supernatural realm or forces.

HUMAN RIGHTS  Often understood as the universal moral rights belonging equally and absolutely to all human beings.

HYPOTHESIS  A tentative proposal or possible explanation; often an early step in scientific method; an informed guess with research yet to be completed. (See THEORY.)

IDEALISTS (IDEALISM)  The view that asserts that reality consists of or is closely related to ideas, thought, mind, or selves rather than matter; there are many types of idealism.

IDEAS  (See WORLD OF ETERNAL FORMS.)

IMMANENT  Indwelling, or operating within the process. An immanent God is within the structure of the universe and/or takes a vital part in its processes. The term is used in contrast with TRANSCENDENT. Religions view their concepts of God as immanent, as transcendent, or as both.

IMMATERIALISM  With reference to George Berkeley, a theological form of SUBJECTIVE IDEALISM.

IMMORTALITY  The doctrine that the soul survives death.

INDETERMINISM  The belief that personal choices are independent of antecedent events. William James, for example, held that genuine possibilities exist in the future and that the universe holds a considerable amount of novelty, chance, and spontaneity.

INDUCTION  Reasoning that attempts to reach a conclusion concerning all the members of a class after inspection of only some of them. Inductive knowledge is empirical. The conclusion of an inductive argument, unlike that of a deductive one, is not logically necessary.

INFERENCe  A conclusion derived either from general premises (deduction) or from factual evidence (induction). Not to be confused with implication; one proposition is said to imply another when their relation is such that if the first is true, the second must also be true.

INFINITE  Unbounded or unlimited, not finite.

INSTRUMENTALIST (INSTRUMENTALISM)  (1) Another term for the pragmatism of John Dewey and others. (2) Instrumentalism stresses experience and interprets thinking, ideas, and beliefs as means for the adjustment of an organism to its environment.

INTRINSIC VALUE  A value or good that is good in itself.

INTROSPECTION  A person’s awareness of his or her own thoughts and feelings; a psychological method of study that is in contrast to the study of objective behavior, though the two methods may be used together.

ISLAM  The worldwide religion of Muslims, followers of Mohammed; literally means “submission to God.”
JUDAISM  The religion of Jews living all over the world.

KARMA  In Hinduism, the cosmic law of sowing and reaping, of cause and effect in human life. The law determines the form that will be taken in each new existence or rebirth. Action is seen as bringing upon oneself inevitable results, good or bad.

KORAN  See QUR’AN.

LIBERALISM  As a modern Christian movement, a social and political outlook favoring freedom of the individual and the rational consent of human beings, as opposed to an authoritarian ideal. As an approach to the Bible, the critical and analytical study of biblical literature with the purpose of distinguishing among myths, legends, history, and other literary forms (as opposed to FUNDAMENTALISM).

LOGIC  The branch of philosophy that deals with the nature and problems of clear and accurate thinking and argument.

LOGICAL EMPIRICISM (LOGICAL POSITIVISM)  A school of thought that would limit meaningful propositions either to those that are empirically verifiable or to those that are analyses of definitions and relations among terms. Empirically verifiable propositions are the concern of the sciences, and analysis of definitions and relations between terms is seen as the specific task of philosophy.

LOGICAL POSITIVISTS (LOGICAL POSITIVISM)  See LOGICAL EMPIRICISM.

MANA REACTION  A primitive reaction exhibiting belief in a widely diffused power or in an influence operative wherever anything striking or unusual occurs.

MATERIALISM (MATERIALISTS)  In its extreme form, the view that nothing is real except matter. Mind and consciousness are merely manifestations of such matter and are reducible to the physical elements.

MATTER  The substance or substances of which any physical object consists or is composed.

MEANS  An agency, instrument, or method used to attain a goal.

MECHANISM  The view that everything is to be explained by mechanical principles or by the laws that govern matter and motion.

MELIORISM  The belief that the world is neither entirely good nor entirely evil but can be made better through human efforts.

MENTAL  Of or pertaining to the mind.

METAETHICS  The study of the meaning of terms and language used in ethical discourse and the kind of reasoning used to justify ethical statements. (See NORMATIVE ETHICS.)

METALANGUAGE  The language we use to talk about language itself, in contrast with an object language that we use to talk about the world.

METAPHYSICS  A critical study of the nature of reality. Metaphysics is often divided into ontology and cosmology.

MOKSA or MOKSHA  In Hinduism, liberation or release from the bondage of the physical world.

MONISM  The position that there is one fundamental reality, which may be mind, matter, God, or some other substance.

MONOTHEISM  The belief that there is only one (usually personal) God.

MORAL AGENT  The individual participating in a moral situation.

MORAL OUGHT  Used to express duty or moral obligation.

MOTIVE  Whatever it is that prompts a person to act in a certain way or that determines volition (willing).

MYSTICISM  The belief that an immediate consciousness of God or a unity within the Divine is attainable; there are many interpretations of mysticism.

NAME  The symbol that stands for the thing named.

NATURALISM  An outlook that accepts the empirical world as the whole of reality, usually without a deity. Naturalism, as opposed to SUPERNATURALISM, holds that explanations of the world produced by scientific methods are the only satisfactory ones.

NATURAL THEOLOGY  The systems of doctrines (including the study or theory of God) that stress reason and empirical evidence. (See THEOLOGY and REVEALED THEOLOGY.)

NEO-THOMISM  A restatement of the religious philosophy of Thomas Aquinas.
NIHILISM (NIHILISTIC)  (1) An extreme form of skepticism; the denial of an objective basis for truth and meaning. (2) The doctrine that nothing exists; therefore, nothing can be known or have value. (3) The term is often used to refer to social doctrine that conditions are so evil that the present order ought to be swept aside or destroyed to make room for something better.

NIRVANA  The extinction of the finite, changing, desiring self. A cessation of striving which liberates and enlightens one. The elimination of ignorance, lust, and selfishness, which are at the root of suffering.

NOMINALISTS (NOMINALISM) The view that “universals,” or general terms, are only names and represent no objectively real existents; all that exists is particulars; reality is found in individual things.

NON SEQUITUR  From the Latin, “it does not follow”; an inference or a conclusion that does not follow logically from the premises; drawing a false conclusion from a true proposition.

NORMATIVE ETHICS  The area of ethics concerned with principles by which human beings ought to live.

NOUMENON  According to Kant, the reality as it is in itself, beyond the phenomenal world we can experience and have knowledge about.

OBJECTIVISTS (OBJECTIVISM) (1) The view that statements we intend as knowledge reveal what really is; ideas are formed by reliable sense experiences; (2) Also, objects and qualities we perceive through our senses do exist independently of a consciousness of them.

OCCAM’S RAZOR  The principle that, other things being equal, one should always take the simpler explanation as the valid one.

ONTOMETRY (1) Used synonymously with “metaphysics.” (2) An area of metaphysics which has to do with the nature of ultimate reality or being.

PANTHEISM  The view that everything is coextensive with God; God is in all, and all is in God.

PARADIGM  A model or an example that identifies certain scientific phenomena and guides the inquiries of scientists; the context, background of conditions, and the set of fundamental assumptions within which science takes place.

PERCEPTS OR PERCEPTION  The organization of sensory impulses into units or wholes; apprehending by means of the senses; that which is immediately given in perception.

PERSONALISM  A type of idealism that asserts reality is a system of personal selves. The self is said to be an irreducible living unit.

PHENOMENOLOGISTICS  A school of thought of which Edmund Husserl (1859–1938) was a leader. It starts with the human subject and his or her consciousness, the experiencing knower; the knowledge we have is limited to things as they are accessible to human consciousness.

PHENOMENON  According to Kant, the appearance of reality in consciousness.

PHYSICAL  Of or pertaining to empirical realities, including the human body.

PLURALIST (PLURALISM) (1) The view that reality consists of not one or two but many substances, in contrast to monism and dualism. (2) The position that more than one informed explanation or interpretation of most issues will be possible. (This is not to imply that all such explanations are equally true.)

POLYTHEISM  Belief in many personalized gods.

POSTULATES  A postulate is a fundamental assumption used as a basis for developing a system of proofs, but not subject itself to proof within the system. Though some logicians use axioms and postulates as synonymous, for others an axiom is a self-evident truth, whereas a postulate is a presupposition or premise of a train of reasoning and not necessarily self-evident. In this latter sense, all axioms are postulates, but not all postulates are axioms. A postulate is a basic statement “taken for granted” from which other statements may be deduced.

PRAGMATISM  At one point of time, the name given by Peirce to his own thinking. (See PRAGMATISM.)

PRAGMATISM  A philosophical outlook generated by C. S. Peirce and William James and further developed by John Dewey that emphasizes experience, experimental inquiry, and truth as that which has satisfactory consequences.
PRAYER  A form of private or group religious experience intending to establish a personal relationship with God.

PREDETERMINATION  The doctrine, stated with varying emphases, that all events in human life have been decreed or determined from the beginning of time by the sovereign will of God.

PREMISE  A proposition supporting or helping to support a conclusion.

PRESUPPOSITION  Anything that must be true for something else to be true.

PRIMARY QUALITIES  The qualities that are said to inhere in material substance and that do not depend on a knower. These qualities are usually thought to include form, extension, solidity, motion, and number. John Locke and others have distinguished between primary and secondary qualities.

PROCESS PHILOSOPHY  A school of thought in philosophy and theology which stresses process or becoming, relations, and relativity as new views of viewing reality.

PROPOSITION  A statement that is either true or false.

PSYCHICAL  Of or pertaining to the human soul or mind.

QUR’AN  The most holy writings of Islam; sometimes “Koran.”

RATIONALISM  The view that the mind has the power to know some truths that are logically prior to experience and yet not analytic.

REAL  Being an actual thing; having objective existence.

REALISTS (REALISM)  The view that the objects of our senses exist independently of their being known or related to mind.

REALITY  The state or quality of being real or actually existent, in contrast with what is mere appearance; encompasses everything there is.

REFERENT  That which is meant.

REVEALED THEOLOGY  Theology that emphasizes revelation as the basis for our knowledge of God.

RITUAL  Practices and ceremonies that nurture and express beliefs, feelings, organization, and daily living.

SACRED  Whatever or whoever is regarded as holy, spiritually distinct from human initiatives, worthy of reverence, wondrous, respectful, and awesome.

SCIENCE  (1) Used to denote any of the many sciences. (2) Knowledge of nature that is quantitative, objective, and testable. (3) The entire body of systematic knowledge built up through experimentation and having a valid theoretical base.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD  The processes and steps by which the sciences obtain knowledge.

SECONDARY QUALITIES  The sense qualities (color, sound, taste, odor) that John Locke and others claimed were determined by the mind and not by the external world. (See PRIMARY QUALITIES.)

SECT  Any religious group formed out of a more dominant body.

SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS  To be aware of one’s existence, sensations, thoughts, and the like is to be conscious; to be self-conscious is to be fully aware of the contents and activity of one’s own mind or self. When self-conscious, individuals regard themselves as subjects.

SELF-DETERMINATION  The position that links determinism and freedom by stressing the causal effectiveness of human participation in events. The self acts as the causal agent. (Sometimes called soft determinism.)

SEMANTICS  A study of the meaning of words and linguistic forms, their function as symbols, and the part they play in relation to other words.

SENSATION  A state of consciousness, an awareness, a mental condition resulting from stimulation of a sense organ.

SENSE DATUM  The image or sense impression. Sense data are the immediately given contents of sense experience, such as colored patches and shapes, which, according to some epistemologists, serve as cues to the presence and nature of perceived objects.

SHINTO  The name given to the many activities and beliefs of traditional Japanese religion.
SITUATION ETHICS  According to Joseph Fletcher, the doctrine contending that truly moral actions produce the greatest amount of love possible in each situation; love is the only moral absolute. A version of teleological ethics.

SOCIAL CONTRACT  The voluntary agreement among individuals by which, according to any of various theories—as of Hobbes, Locke, or Rousseau—organized society is brought into being and secures mutual protection and well-being for its members.

SOLIPSISM  The view that I alone exist, the reductio ad absurdum of SUBJECTIVISM.

SUBJECTIVE  That which pertains to the subject, the self, or the knower; that which exists in consciousness but not apart from consciousness. The term stands in contrast with OBJECTIVE.

SUBJECTIVE IDEALISM  The belief that reality consists of minds, or spirits, and their perceptions or ideas.

SUBJECTIVISM  (1) The view that reality consists of conscious beings and their mental states. (2) The position that all we can know is one’s own sensory and mental states. (3) The theory that value and other statements are about feelings and therefore have no independent status; they exist only in minds.

SUBSTANCE  That which exists in and of itself; that in which attributes, properties, and qualities reside.

SUPERNATURALISM  The outlook that there is a reality above or beyond the empirical world of nature.

TAUTOLOGY  In contemporary logic, a statement that is necessarily true because of its logical form, for example, “Black dogs are black.” A tautology imparts no new knowledge.

TECHNOLOGY  A body of useful and practical scientific knowledge; applied science, including engineering, industrial arts, and the like.

TELEOLOGICAL ETHICS  The view that the consequences of a moral act determine its rightness or wrongness.

THEISM  Belief in a personal God.

THEOCRACY  A government believed to be ruled by God acting through God’s human agents.

THEODICY  Justification of God’s goodness in the face of evil.

THEOLOGY  Literally, the study or theory of God. In practice, the term is used for the system of doctrines of some particular religious group or individual thinker. (See NATURAL THEOLOGY and REVEALED THEOLOGY.)

THEORY  The general conclusion after evidence is gathered and analyzed; a confirmed hypothesis; an explanation of evidence gathered by means of research.

TRANSCENDENT (TRANSCENDENCE)  That which is beyond what is given in experience. In theology the term means that God is outside of or beyond nature.

TRANSLITERATION  The spelling of words translated from a different foreign script. For example, Arabic script, dissimilar to the script of English words, can yield Qur’an or Koran, Muslim or Moslem, and various English spellings of “Mohammed.”

TRANSVALUATION  A reappraisal or a reestimate of the accepted standards of a given society.

ULTIMATE REALITY  That which is ultimately real; often refers to God.

UNCONSCIOUS  Without awareness, sensation, or cognition.

UNIVERSALS  General terms or characteristics, as distinguished from individual cases; abstract ideas, such as blueness or justice.

UPANISHADS  A group of philosophical treatises, usually in dialogue form, composed between the eighth and six centuries B.C.E. They comprise part of the Hindu Scriptures and attempt to explain the inner meaning of the Reality beyond the religious quest, having as their principle message the unity of BRAHMAN and ATMAN.

UTILITARIANISM  An ethical theory claiming that utility, in the sense that whatever increases pleasure and decreases pain, should be the aim of acts and the criterion by which we judge them.

VALUE  A guiding principle; a quality; a goal; the worth of something.

VICES  Immoral or evil habits or practices.
VIRTUES  Particular moral excellences; righteousness; goodness.

VOLUNTARY  Done, made, or brought about by one’s own accord or by free choice.

WORLD OF ETERNAL FORMS OR IDEAS  Plato’s supersensible world, which contains the universal definitions of ideas, known as forms.