

Learners should be able to explain and apply these terms in relation to the themes

1. **Arti** – A form of Hindu worship/prayer in which burning lamps are waved before the statues of the gods to invoke their presence.
2. **Atman** – The individual self or soul that is believed to be non-physical and return to Brahman once moksha is achieved.
3. **Avatar** – The incarnations of a deity, sometimes in human form; most commonly used is Vishnu, the Preserver God, who was incarnated through Krishna.
4. **Bhakti** – An act of love and devotion to a personal God performed as an act of worship.
5. **Brahman** – The supreme power in the Universe; ultimate reality; God.
6. **Mandir** – A Hindu place of worship or shrine.
7. **Murti** – An image or statue of a God/Goddess; one or more of these are often the focal point of puja.
8. **Nam Samskar** – The baby naming ceremony performed by Hindus. Also known as namakaran or naam sanskar.
9. **Puja** – Prayer/worship of the gods; offerings. Offerings are given to the murti.
10. **Trimurti** – The three major aspects of the Brahman, the supreme power; Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer.
11. **Upanaya** – Sacred thread ceremony performed by Hindus.
12. **Varanasi** – A holy city built on the banks of the river Ganges; a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. Also known as Benares.

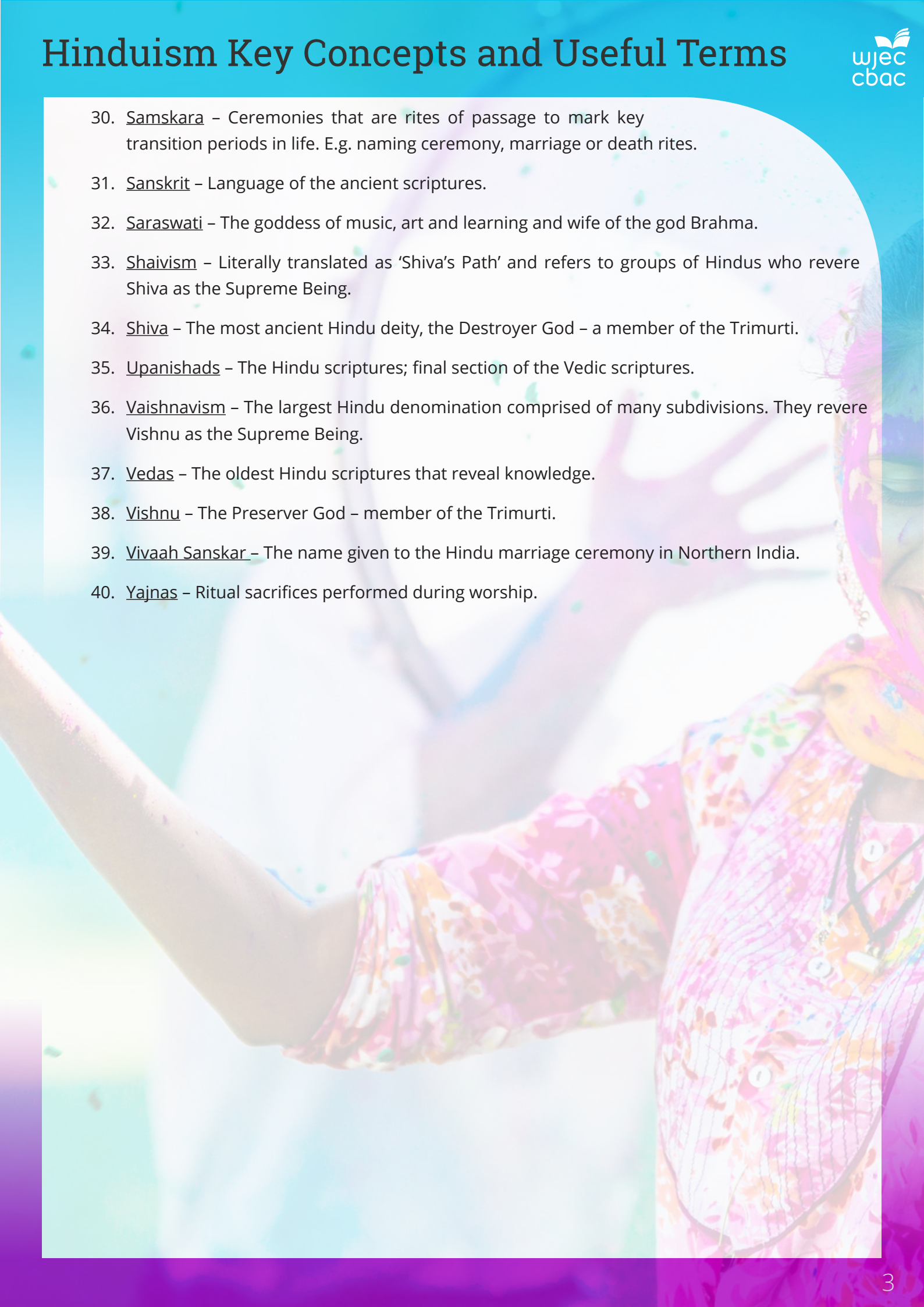
Other useful terms:

1. **Antyesti** – The name given to the Hindu funeral rite – literally translated as 'last sacrifice'.
2. **Bhagavad Gita** – The Hindu holy book; the "Song of the Lord".
3. **Brahma** – The Creator God – one of the members of the Trimurti.
4. **Danda** – Hindu equivalent of punishment. This traditionally took the form of a stick or staff.
5. **Deity** – A god or goddess.
6. **Dharma** – The religious and moral duty in relation to a person's status in Hindu society as determined by caste.
7. **Ganesh** – The elephant-headed God; god of good beginnings; symbol of luck and remover of obstacles. He is often the first to be worshipped.

Hinduism Key Concepts and Useful Terms

8. Hanuman – The monkey God; Hero of the Ramayana, God of strength.
9. Havan – A purifying ritual that involves the use of a sacred fire.
10. Ishtadev – A personally chosen God.
11. Japa – The repetition of a mantra or the names of God. This can be done aloud or in the mind.
12. Kalyanam – The name given to the Hindu marriage ceremony in Southern India.
13. Karma – The belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atman will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. One could gain positive and/or negative karma.
14. Krishna – An avatar of Vishnu, which is worshipped widely.
15. Kurma Purana – A Medieval era Vaishnavism holy text.
16. Lakshmi – The goddess of wealth and fortune and wife of Vishnu – the Preserver God. Popular at the time of Diwali when diva lamps are put in windows to attract her attention.
17. Mahabharata – One of the two epic poems of India that includes the Bhagavad Gita.
18. Mantra – A sacred verse from the ancient scriptures that is repeated before and during worship; usually written in Sanskrit.
19. Moksha – The release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; liberation; ultimate union with God.
20. Namaste – A greeting, usually said with hands clasped in front of the body; literally “I bow to God as you”.
21. Om – A sacred syllable; said to be the first word ever lettered and the first sound heard; the most sacred mantra (sometimes Aum).
22. Papa – Actions that lead to negative results and spiritually degrade a person.
23. Pilgrimage – A journey to a place of religious significance undertaken for spiritual gain.
24. Prashad – Food offered to the gods and shared with the congregation.
25. Punya – Actions that bear positive results and spiritually elevate a person.
26. Rama – The seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu and the hero of the Ramayana.
27. Ramayana – One of the two great epics of India that tells the story of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu.
28. Rig Veda – The oldest of the Hindu scriptures, literally “royal knowledge”.
29. Samsara – The constant change of the world through a process of birth, death and being reborn through reincarnation.

Hinduism Key Concepts and Useful Terms

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30. Samskara – Ceremonies that are rites of passage to mark key transition periods in life. E.g. naming ceremony, marriage or death rites.
 31. Sanskrit – Language of the ancient scriptures.
 32. Saraswati – The goddess of music, art and learning and wife of the god Brahma.
 33. Shaivism – Literally translated as 'Shiva's Path' and refers to groups of Hindus who revere Shiva as the Supreme Being.
 34. Shiva – The most ancient Hindu deity, the Destroyer God – a member of the Trimurti.
 35. Upanishads – The Hindu scriptures; final section of the Vedic scriptures.
 36. Vaishnavism – The largest Hindu denomination comprised of many subdivisions. They revere Vishnu as the Supreme Being.
 37. Vedas – The oldest Hindu scriptures that reveal knowledge.
 38. Vishnu – The Preserver God – member of the Trimurti.
 39. Vivaah Sanskar – The name given to the Hindu marriage ceremony in Northern India.
 40. Yajnas – Ritual sacrifices performed during worship.