



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) – 2ND JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE (AQA) - RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of a recent communication from the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 AQA has advised that following extensive consultation with the full range of stakeholders in GCSE Religious Studies, they have now published (on their web site) the draft Specifications that will be available for first teaching from September 2009. Members are invited to look at the Specifications and Specimen Question Papers and Mark Schemes. These can be found by following the directions from the home page (www.aqa.org.uk).
- 2.2 AQA state feedback from centres on the draft materials has been extremely positive and they hope people find the materials to be both exciting and engaging.
- 2.3 Also they have organised a number of free events in June and early July, AQA Expo 08, to enable people to review and download a copy of the new GCSE specifications and attend a Religious Studies seminar led by a senior examiner. At AQA Expo 08 members will also be able to see how the new GCSEs fit with other developments such as the Diploma, Projects, Functional Skills, AQA Bacc and new assessment technology. Appendix 1
- 2.4 At AQA Expo 08, the seminars will outline the structure of the new specifications, teaching content and assessment. The GCSE seminars are led by a senior examiner for Religious Studies and are suitable whether members are currently teaching the AQA GCSE specification, considering changing to AQA, or simply have an interest in finding out what is happening.
- 2.5 Please find attached an invitation to this event. If you would like to book your place on one of the Religious Studies seminars or to confirm your attendance at the AQA Expo 08 either call 01483 477860 or book on-line at www.aqa.org.uk.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Author: Rebecca Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

Appendices:
Appendix 1 AQA Expo8 leaflet