

EXPO8

# GCSE Religious Studies

## Why choose AQA?

- Commitment to high quality exams, fair results
- Exams set and marked by qualified, experienced teachers and lecturers
- Highly flexible specification with a wide range of exciting choices between and within units
- Consistently accessible questions with transparent demands
- Flexible, open, positive marking
- Rigour and a reputation for accuracy
- Accountability: detailed Mark Schemes and Examiners' Reports published
- Extensive support including, at a personal level, by phone/e-mail

# Why choose AQA Religious Studies?

- Greater flexibility
- Greater choice
- Accessible
- Less stressful

## The bottom line – how our results compare

Summer 2007	GCSE Full Course			
	Grade A*	Grade A	Grade C	Grade F
<b>AQA</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>All ABS</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>31.5%</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>95.6%</b>

It was apparent, talking to centres, that the perception was widely held that AQA's level of award in Religious Studies was considered to be severe. The information provided above demonstrates the accessibility of our assessment materials, allowing candidates to demonstrate their abilities to the full.

## The bottom line – how our results compare

Summer 2007	GCSE Short Course			
	Grade A*	Grade A	Grade C	Grade F
<b>AQA</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>89.0%</b>
<b>All ABs</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>53.4%</b>	<b>89.5%</b>

It was apparent, talking to centres, that the perception was widely held that AQA's level of award in Religious Studies was considered to be severe. The information provided above demonstrates the accessibility of our assessment materials, allowing candidates to demonstrate their abilities to the full.

## Support offered

- Resources lists
- Explanation of terms
- Schemes of work
- Specimen questions and Mark Schemes
- Examples of candidates' answers to exam questions with commentaries produced by the Principal Examiner
- CD / website support
- Examiners' Reports
- Unit-specific support meetings
- Unit-specific textbooks or other resources (Nelson Thornes)

# GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

## *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles*

# Overview of Specification A

Current specification	New specification
A1A & C2 Christianity	1 Christianity (A1A & C2 & new content)
A2A Christian Ethics	2 Christianity: Ethics (A2A & new content)
A1B Roman Catholic Belief	3 Roman Catholicism (A1B & new content)
A2B Roman Catholic Ethics	4 Roman Catholicism: Ethics (A2B & new content)
A1C St Mark's Gospel	5 St Mark's Gospel (A1C & new content)
A1D Synoptic Gospels	6 St Luke's Gospel (new)
	7 Philosophy of Religion (new)
C4 Islam	8 Islam (C4 & new content)
	9 Islam: Ethics (C4 & new content)
C5 Judaism	10 Judaism (C5 & new content)
	11 Judaism: Ethics (C5 & new content)
C1 Buddhism	12 Buddhism (C1 & new content)
C3 Hinduism	13 Hinduism (C3 & new content)
C6 Sikhism	14 Sikhism (C6 & new content)



# Possible 100% routes through Specification A

- 100% Christianity
- 100% Roman Catholicism
- 100% Judaism
- 100% Islam
- 100% Ethics

# Possible ‘eclectic mix’ routes through Specification A

- Christian Denominations  
(eg Christianity & Roman Catholicism: Ethics)
- World Religions  
(eg Buddhism and Sikhism)
- Ethics +  
(eg Christianity: Ethics & Islam: Ethics)
- Philosophy of Religion +  
(eg Philosophy of Religion & St Luke’s Gospel)
- Scripture +  
(eg St Mark’s Gospel & Hinduism)

# Prohibited combinations

- Unit 1 *Christianity* and Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*
- Unit 2 *Christianity: Ethics and* Unit 4 *Roman Catholicism: Ethics*
- Unit 5 *St Mark's Gospel* and Unit 6 *St Luke's Gospel*

## Structure of question paper

- Length of examination 1 hour 30 minutes
- Candidates answer five questions from six on the paper (four compulsory in Part A and a choice of one from two in Part B)
- Part A compulsory, four questions worth 48 marks in total – 24 marks AO1, 24 marks AO2
- Part B, two questions, each worth 24 marks. Candidates answer one question – 12 marks allocated to AO1 and 12 marks to AO2
- Each paper is worth a total of 72 marks

# Exciting question papers for candidates

**PART A**

Answer all questions in this part in the spaces provided.

**1 The Compatibility of Science and Religion**  
Look at the drawing below.




(a) What is evolution?  
.....  
.....  
.....

(b) Describe one story that deals with the creation of the world.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
*(2 marks)*


**PART A**

Answer all questions in this part in the spaces provided.

**A1 Worship**  
Look at the photographs below, which show an altar and a rosary



An altar



A rosary

(a) Give two reasons why some Roman Catholics use a rosary when they pray.

1.....  
.....  
.....

2.....  
.....  
.....  
*(2 marks)*

# Exciting question papers for candidates

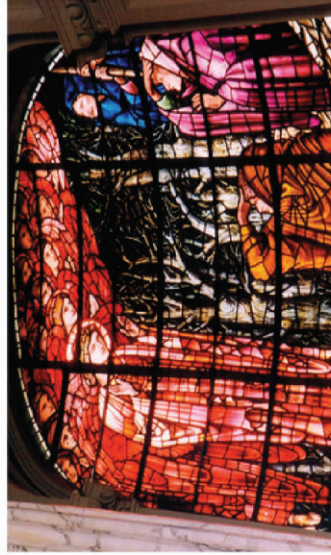
A3 Salvation

Look at the images below.

The Annunciation



The vision of the Shepherds



## PART B

Do not write on the insert. Any work on the insert will not be marked.

Do not place the insert into the answer booklet at the end of the examination.

Answer either Question B5 or Question B6 on pages 10 to 14.

There are 24 marks available.

### EITHER

#### B5 Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

- B5 (a) What is cohabitation? (2 marks)
- B5 (b) Explain two reasons why a marriage might break down. (4 marks)
- B5 (c) 'Marriage is out of date in today's society.'
- Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer. (6 marks)
- B5 (d) (i) Explain why some Christians might agree with divorce in some situations. (6 marks)
- B5 (d) (ii) 'Divorced people should not be allowed to remarry in church.'
- Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 marks)

### OR

#### B6 War and Peace

- B6 (a) What is pacifism? (2 marks)
- B6 (b) (i) Explain two reasons why a country might become involved in a war. (4 marks)
- B6 (b) (ii) Explain why some Christians are always opposed to war. (6 marks)
- B6 (c) 'Nuclear war is always wrong.'
- Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer. (6 marks)
- B6 (d) 'Acts of terrorism can never be justified.'
- Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to Christianity in your answer. (6 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

# **GCSE Religious Studies Specification B**

## ***Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society***

# Overview of Specification B

Current specification	New specification
1 <i>Religion and Morality</i>	1 <i>Religion and Citizenship</i> (current B1 and 2 and new content)
2 <i>Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues</i>	2 <i>Religion and Life Issues</i> (current B1 and 2 and new content)
3 <i>Faith Studies and Ethics in Two Religions</i>	3 <i>Religion and Morality</i> (current B4)
4 <i>Religion and Contemporary Society</i>	4 <i>Philosophy of Religion in Society</i> (current B1 and new)
	5 <i>Religious Expression in Society</i> (current B4 and new)
	6 <i>Worship and Key Beliefs</i> (current B2 and 3)



# Possible routes through Specification B

- Unit 6 provides for a balanced study of two of the six major world religions
- All other units provide for the study of one, two or more religions with varying balance

## Prohibited combinations

- **No prohibited combinations** – free choice of any two of the six units for a Full Course qualification

## Structure of question papers

- Length of examination 1 hour 30 minutes
- Candidates answer four questions from six on the paper
- Each question is worth 18 marks – nine marks allocated to AO1 and 9 to AO2
- Each question paper is worth a total of 72 marks

# Exciting question papers for candidates

## 4. Religion and the Multicultural Society

Look at the newspaper headlines below.

**Archbishop sparks row over Shari'ah Law**

**Thousands join in the religious festival**

- (a) Give two challenges of living in a multicultural society. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Describe a project run by a faith community. *(4 marks)*
- (c) 'Religion should stay out of politics.'  
What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- (d) Explain briefly the attitudes of religious believers about asylum seekers. *(3 marks)*
- (e) 'Celebrating religious festivals is the best way to bring people of different cultures together.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. *(6 marks)*

## 5. Religion, War and Peace

Look at the photograph below.



- (a) What is meant by a 'Holy War'? *(1 mark)*
- (b) Give two reasons why countries might go to war. *(2 marks)*
- (c) 'No one who is religious can be a terrorist.'  
What do you think? Explain your opinion. *(3 marks)*
- (d) Explain why some religious believers are prepared to fight in a war. *(6 marks)*
- (e) 'Wars do not solve problems; they only create them.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. *(6 marks)*

# Exciting question papers for candidates

## 1. Religion and Art

Look at the painting below.



- (a) Describe briefly **one** work of religious art that you have studied. (2 marks)
- (b) 'Religious art is very effective at expressing a spiritual message.'  
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (c) Describe **one** type of religious art **other than painting**. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain the impact of religious art on those looking at it. (4 marks)
- (e) 'Art is inspired by God.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 marks)

## 6. Religious Attitudes to World Poverty

Look at the photograph below.



- (a) Name two religious charities that help the poor in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (2 marks)
- (b) Give three ways that show how the poor in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) are treated unfairly. (3 marks)
- (c) 'Religious organisations should concentrate on long term aid rather than short term (emergency) aid.'  
What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- (d) Explain the attitudes of religious believers to those who live in poverty in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). (4 marks)
- (e) 'Poverty is too big a problem for religious believers to solve.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. (6 marks)

**But don't just take our word for it...**

## Feedback so far...

“I want to pass on my congratulations for the exciting and challenging content of the proposed courses. They look brilliant! I know the content will be attractive to students and will prove to be very popular with them. **I can't wait to start teaching these new GCSE courses.**

**Thank you so much for carrying out extensive consultations with teachers prior to drawing up the specifications. The proposed Religious Studies GCSE is flexible in terms of organisation and is innovative and relevant in content. This will help ensure that Religious Studies continues to grow in popularity as an examination subject.”**

*Caroline Waiting, Teacher in charge of Religious Studies at Teddington School*

## Feedback so far...

**“We are very excited about the new syllabus, it looks great and I would like to teach it all!”**

*Paula Wright, Head of Religious Education, Reigate School*



## Feedback so far...

“The Ecclesbourne School welcomes the new draft specifications on Religious Studies from AQA. We have long been admirers of the Religious Studies specifications AQA has produced for GCSE students over the years and what you get with AQA time and time again is a broad, balanced approach to Religious Studies which **thoroughly reflects different religious traditions** and, above all, **gives all students of varying abilities the opportunity to study an area which will have significance for and in their lives for the future.**

To have such choice, on both specifications offered, can only bring joy to Religious Studies teachers in the UK as **there is literally 'something for everyone'**. We find AQA to be fair, honest and full of integrity with regard to Religious Studies at GCSE level from the construction of exam papers to the Grade Awarding process and will once again be choosing one of their courses to follow with our students when the new GCSE becomes approved.”

*Kevin James, Ecclesbourne School*

## Feedback so far...

“A lot of hard work has obviously gone into maintaining the breadth of options available in Religious Studies at GCSE as well as developing areas of real concern at the cutting edge of the subject.”

*Paul Hedworth, Bromsgrove School*

## Feedback so far...

“Love the look of the new AQA spec B. Six short course modules with the option of any two making a full GCSE. Really interesting content. I want to do more than two. They look great.”

*Source: TES Community Staffroom 9 Apr 2008*