

GCSE Religious Studies

Want to Find out More?

To find out more about AQA's exciting new GCSE Religious Studies specifications, come to a FREE Meeting. Book your place online at: <http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/> or telephone **0161 957 3925**.

Also complete the enclosed form to request your printed copy of the final specification and specimen question papers and mark schemes as soon as they are available, expected Autumn 08.

Still Not Sure?

If you're still not convinced the AQA specification is the right one for you and your students, complete the enclosed form to request AQA's Guide to GCSE Religious Studies.

Can't wait and want to find out more now?

Visit www.aqa.org.uk and select GCSEs under Qualifications.

Don't just take our word for it.

Here are just some of the comments we have received from teachers on the revised GCSE Religious Studies specifications.

"I am extremely excited about the new RE specs"

Visitor to AQA EXPO 08

"... what you get with AQA time and time again is a broad, balanced approach to Religious Studies which ... gives all students of varying abilities the opportunity to study an area which will have significance for and in their lives for the future.

... 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

"..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... The proposed Religious Studies GCSE is flexible in terms of organisation and is innovative and relevant in content."

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

"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

GCSE

Religious Studies

"I can't wait to start teaching these new GCSE courses... The proposed Religious Studies GCSE is flexible in terms of organisation and is innovative and relevant in content."



Achieve More with AQA

Terms: AQA reserves the right to re-schedule or cancel an event and will endeavour to give adequate notice. AQA is not responsible for associated costs incurred by delegate or centre when booking onto, attending an event, or arising from cancellation/postponement. If you are unable to attend please inform us so that we can offer your place to another teacher on the waiting list.

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Dr Michael Cresswell, Director General.

We've listened.

We've spoken to teachers throughout the development of the revised Religious Studies specifications to understand your needs and develop these specifications around you. In addition, subject specialists with expertise in each of the six major world religions of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism have been involved in the development of these specifications to ensure that they meet the requirements of faith and secular groups.

You've told us that you want:

Simplicity. There are now two specifications. In addition, the structure of each unit and of the question papers is clear and straightforward.

To be able to **teach issues that are relevant to students' lives.** So we've introduced new units such as the Philosophy of Religion and St Luke's Gospel on Specification A, and Religion and Citizenship and Religious Expression in Society in Specification B and, where we have carried forward units, we have listened to your views and updated the content.

To allow your students to **study what they enjoy.**

To be able to **teach the content in the time you have available.** The simple specification structure allows you to select the content you want to teach.

More choice. You have a huge amount of flexibility with the introduction of new units, new content and very few prohibited combinations of units. You can teach a course which focuses on one religion or offer students the opportunity to study two, or more* religions, depending on your interests and those of your students.

The modular assessment structure allows your students to be assessed as you go through the course and to move between short course and full course, depending on their performance.

In addition, this GCSE provides an excellent grounding for students wishing to progress to GCE.

*Specification B only

No coursework. There is no coursework in the revised Religious Studies specifications.

Fair and accessible assessment. The language in question papers is clear, ensuring questions are accessible to candidates of all abilities.

Some teachers have questioned whether it is easier for students to get a Grade C with one awarding body rather than another. AQA's Guide to GCSE Religious Studies considers this issue and looks at the statistics which show that, in 2007, 77.8% of candidates taking Religious Studies with AQA achieved a Grade C or above. Find out more by requesting AQA's Guide to GCSE Religious Studies on the enclosed reply paid form.

Clarity and consistency. The specifications are designed to appeal to experienced and non-specialist teachers alike so that it is clear what is required of candidates. This is supported by resource material to ensure you understand the requirements of the specifications and assessment material.

Information and support to help you get started. As well as offering free meetings, we are also developing AQA-endorsed textbooks with our publishing partner, Nelson Thornes. Extensive Teacher Resource Bank items are being developed, including resource lists, possible approaches to delivering the specification content, lesson guides, examples of candidates' work, explanation of key terms and command words to ensure you have everything you need to teach AQA's specifications with confidence.

Specification Summaries

If you're familiar with AQA's current specifications, we've also included this handy comparison with the current specification so that you can see where we've added new content.

Religious Studies A: Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles

Unit	New Specification	Current Specification
1	Christianity	Christianity from specifications A (Paper 1A) and C (Paper 2) plus new content
2	Christianity: Ethics	Christian Ethics from specification A (Paper 2A) plus new content
3	Roman Catholicism	Roman Catholic Belief from specification A (Paper 1B) plus new content
4	Roman Catholicism: Ethics	Roman Catholic Ethics from specification A (Paper 2B) plus new content
5	St Mark's Gospel	St Mark's Gospel from specification A (Paper 1C) plus new content
6	St Luke's Gospel NEW!	
7	Philosophy of Religion NEW!	
8	Islam	Islam from specification C (Paper 4) plus new content
9	Islam: Ethics	From specification C (Paper 4) plus new content
10	Judaism	Judaism from specification C (Paper 5) plus new content
11	Judaism: Ethics	From specification C (Paper 5) plus new content
12	Buddhism	Buddhism from specification C (Paper 1) plus new content
13	Hinduism	Hinduism from specification C (Paper 3) plus new content
14	Sikhism	Sikhism from specification C (Paper 6) plus new content

Religious Studies B: Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society

Unit	New Specification	Current Specification
1	Religion and Citizenship	Combination of Thinking about God and Morality (B Unit 1) plus Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues (B Unit 2) plus new content
2	Religion and Life Issues	Combination of Thinking about God and Morality (B Unit 1) plus Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues (B Unit 2) plus new content
3	Religion and Morality	Truth, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues (B Unit 4)
4	Philosophy of Religion in Society	Religion and Contemporary Society (B Unit 4) plus new content
5	Religious Expression in Society	Truth, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues (B Unit 4) plus new content
6	Worship and Key Beliefs	Combination of Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues (B Unit 2) plus Faith Studies and Ethics in Two Religions (B Unit 3)

All this backed up by AQA's commitment to service and support

AQA is committed to providing you with more personal support than any other awarding body. In particular we offer:

- Direct contact with the Religious Studies subject department to answer your queries.
- Free meetings for the new Religious Studies specifications.
- Regular communication to keep you updated with progress and inform you of any new developments.
- 24 hour support and access to resources through the AQA Website and on-line via Ask AQA.
- Extensive resources including AQA-endorsed textbooks, resources lists, possible approaches to delivering the specifications and lesson plans, examples of candidates' responses to questions with supporting commentaries written by the Principal Examiner.

Dates and locations of FREE GCSE Religious Studies introductory meetings

Date	Location	Booking Reference
Friday 29 August (am) (Spec. A only)	Omagh	RSTS101M
Thursday 11 September	Manchester	RSTS102M
Monday 15 September	London	RSTS103M
Tuesday 16 September	Leeds	RSTS104M
Thursday 18 September	Bristol	RSTS105M
Friday 19 September	Birmingham/Bournville	RSTS106M
Wednesday 24 September	Middlesbrough	RSTS107M
Tuesday 30 September	Manchester	RSTS108M
Thursday 2 October	Belfast	RSTS109M
Friday 3 October (am) (Spec B) (pm) (Spec A)	Exeter	RSTS110M
Monday 6 October	York	RSTS111M
Wednesday 8 October	Maidstone	RSTS112M
Friday 10 October	Bolton	RSTS113M
Monday 13 October	Southampton	RSTS114M
Tuesday 14 October	Cardiff	RSTS115M
Friday 17 October	Birmingham/Bournville	RSTS116M
Tuesday 21 October (am) (Spec. A only)	Newry	RSTS117M
Wednesday 22 October	London	RSTS118M
Thursday 6 November	Birmingham/Bournville	RSTS119M
Tuesday 11 November	Penrith	RSTS120M
Wednesday 12 November	Colchester	RSTS121M
Friday 14 November	Liverpool	RSTS122M
Tuesday 18 November	Notts / Derby	RSTS123M
Wednesday 19 November	Reading	RSTS124M
Monday 24 November	Manchester	RSTS125M
Thursday 27 November	Newcastle upon Tyne	RSTS126M
Monday 1 December	Leicester	RSTS127M
Thursday 11 December	London	RSTS128M

Book on-line at <http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/>
Specification A 9.45am to 12.15pm. Specification B 1.15pm to 3.45pm.

Countdown to new GCSEs

August 2008 – Specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes approved by QCA.

Autumn 2008 – Specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes sent out to teachers. To request your copy complete and return the enclosed Reply paid card.

August - December 2008 – FREE interactive meetings to give an overview of the specifications and assessment structure, detailed above.

September 2009 – First teaching of new GCSEs.