

## Scheme of Assessment for Specifications A and B

### Religious Studies A - Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles

Our new GCSE Religious Studies A: Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles offers:

- More flexibility to construct a course that reflects your specialism and that will engage candidates. You can focus on the study of the beliefs, sources of authority, practices and organisation of the major Christian denominations, or of Islam or of Judaism. Alternatively, you can undertake a broader study of religion through the selection of a variety of complementary topics.
- Exciting new topics of study allowing you to design a course debating issues and exploring fundamental questions in the Philosophy of Religion or issues such as identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitment through the ethics units.
- Continuity with AQA's current GCSE Religious Studies Specifications A (*Christianity*) and C (*World Religions*), in order that teachers can continue to use their existing resources as far as possible.

This specification is available as a Full Course and a Short Course. The same papers are set for the Full and Short Courses and both are available for first examination in 2010. Certification for the Short Course is available in 2010 and certification for the Full Course in 2011.

To gain a Short Course, candidates take any one of the fourteen units available. To gain a Full Course, candidates take two of the fourteen units available\*.

<b>Unit 1</b> Christianity	<b>Unit 2</b> Christianity: Ethics
<b>Unit 3</b> Roman Catholicism	<b>Unit 4</b> Roman Catholicism: Ethics
<b>Unit 5</b> St Mark's Gospel	<b>Unit 6</b> St Luke's Gospel
<b>Unit 7</b> Philosophy of Religion	<b>Unit 8</b> Islam
<b>Unit 9</b> Islam: Ethics	<b>Unit 10</b> Judaism
<b>Unit 11</b> Judaism: Ethics	<b>Unit 12</b> Buddhism
<b>Unit 13</b> Hinduism	<b>Unit 14</b> Sikhism

\* The following are Prohibited Combinations for the Full Course:

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 Units and Examination Papers

Each unit comprises six topics for study.

Each topic will feature on the examination paper for the unit, although the divisions of the subject content are not rigid and questions may be set which span two or more of the topics.

### Written Examinations

1 hour 30 minutes each unit.

A total of 1 hour 30 minutes' examination time for a Short Course.

A total of 3 hours' examination time for a Full Course.

### Examination Papers

The question papers are divided into two parts.

**Part A** comprises four compulsory short-answer stimulus-response questions worth a total of 48 marks.

**Part B** comprises two optional extended response questions from which candidates choose and answer one question. Questions in Part B are worth a total of 24 marks.

Each question paper is worth a total of 72 marks.

## **Modular Examinations**

The scheme of assessment is modular, and therefore flexible.  
The following possibilities are available.

- Both assessment units taken at the end of one year of study.
- Both assessment units taken at the end of two years of study.
- One assessment unit taken at the end of one year of study, and another assessment unit taken at the end of a second year of study.
- The facility to “top-up” a unit certificated as a Short Course to a Full Course, by taking a further assessment unit.
- Assessment units can be taken in any order.

## Religious Studies B – Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society

Our new GCSE Religious Studies B: *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society* offers:

- opportunity for the thematic study of religion and religious responses to fundamental questions of life with a particular focus on ethical and philosophical issues.
- opportunities for the study of one, two or more religions, with varying balance in units 1 to 5. Unit 6 provides for a balanced study of two of the six major world religions.
- more choice than the current Specification B, focusing on issues such as citizenship, life issues, morality, philosophy of religion, religious expression, and worship and key beliefs with students studying these issues from different religious perspectives.
- continuity with AQA’s current GCSE Religious Studies Specification B (*World and Philosophical Perspectives on Religious Issues*), so that you can continue to use your existing resources as far as possible.

This specification is available as a Full Course and a Short Course. The same papers are set for the Full and Short Course and both are available for first examination in 2010. Certification for the Short Course is available in 2010 and certification for the Full Course in 2011.

To gain a Short Course, candidates take any one of the six units available. To gain a Full Course, candidates take any two of the six units available.

**Unit 1** Religion and Citizenship

**Unit 2** Religion and Life Issues

**Unit 3** Religion and Morality

**Unit 4** Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions

**Unit 5** Religious Expression in Society

**Unit 6** Worship and Key Beliefs

## **Structure of Units and Examination Papers**

Units comprise six topics for study.

A question will be set on each of the six topics in each unit.

## **Written Examinations**

1 hour 30 minutes each unit.

A total of 1 hour 30 minutes’ examination time for a Short Course.

A total of 3 hours’ examination time for a Full Course.

## **Examination Papers**

Questions will be set on each of the six topics which appear on the Specification content.

Candidates will answer four structured essay questions from the choice of six given.

Each question is worth 18 marks.

Each question paper is worth a total of 72 marks.

## Modular Examinations

The scheme of assessment is modular, and therefore flexible.  
The following possibilities are available.

- Both assessment units taken at the end of one year of study.
- Both assessment units taken at the end of two years of study.
- One assessment unit taken at the end of one year of study, and another assessment unit taken at the end of a second year of study.
- The facility to “top-up” a unit certificated as a Short Course to a Full Course, by taking a further assessment unit.
- Assessment units can be taken in any order.

## Launch Meeting Schedule

N.B. Both specifications will be available at each session unless otherwise stated.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reference</u>
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