

Thomas, Rebecca

From: AQA ReligiousStudies [religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk]
Sent: 12 November 2008 11:30
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: AQA GCSE Religious Studies Specifications A, B and C
Attachments: Letter to all GCSE RS Spec A centres re changes as a result of CMI+ November 2008.pdf; Letter to all GCSE RS Spec B centres re entry codes November 2008.pdf; Letter to all GCSE RS Spec C centres new Specifications November 2008.pdf

Message sent on behalf of Deborah Garnett

Hello Everyone

I attach, for your information, copies of letters that are being despatched to centres working with AQA's GCSE Religious Studies Specifications A, B and C, in which I provide reminders / confirmation of the following points:

Specification A *Christianity*

- Entry Codes for the new modular Specification A (4061/4062)
- Improvements made to the layout of Question Paper Answer Booklets for Units 1C and 2B
- Availability of re-sit opportunities in the new Modular Specification A
- Details of our new GCSE Religious Studies Specifications, for first assessment in summer 2010

<<Letter to all GCSE RS Spec A centres re changes as a result of CMI+ November 2008.pdf>>

Specification B *World and Philosophical Perspectives on Religious Issues*

- Entry Codes for the new modular Specification B (3062/3067)
- Availability of re-sit opportunities in the Modular Specification B
- Details of our new GCSE Religious Studies Specifications, for first assessment in summer 2010

<<Letter to all GCSE RS Spec B centres re entry codes November 2008.pdf>>

Specification C *World Religions*

Please note that continuity is provided for centres currently offering AQA's Specification C *World Religions* (3063/3068) - our new Specification A provides units for study in:

Buddhism
 Christianity
 Hinduism
 Islam
 Judaism
 Sikhism

not to mention

Christianity: Ethics
 Islam: Ethics
 Judaism: Ethics

AQA GCSE Religious Studies Specifications A, B and C

What's more, there are even more options for you to choose from - 14 in total on Specification A alone!

<<Letter to all GCSE RS Spec C centres new Specifications November 2008.pdf>>

I would be most grateful if you could bring these letters to the attention of your colleagues. Please do not hesitate to contact me should I be of further assistance to you with regards AQA Religious Studies.

With best wishes

Deborah

Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Officer for Religious Studies and Classics

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Or try Ask AQA, where you can see answers to FAQs, ask questions for a personal reply, request free support materials, and register for e-mail updates

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

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E-mail: dgarnett@aqa.org.uk
Please ask for: Deborah Garnett

Your ref:
Our ref: RS/GCSE A/DAG

For the attention of GCSE Religious Studies teachers

November 2008

Dear Colleague

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A *Christianity* (4061/4062)

I am writing to remind you of a number of important changes regarding GCSE Religious Studies Specification A *Christianity* and to update you on the progress with the launch of our new Specifications, available for first assessment in summer 2010.

1. 2009 examination: Changes to entry codes as a result of the move to a Modular Scheme of Assessment

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Full Course (3061) and Short Course (3066) were withdrawn after the June 2008 examinations and have been replaced by a new modular Specification (4061 and 4062 respectively), which is offered for first award in June 2009.

When making an entry for Specification A (4061/4062), please note that you will need to make a **separate entry** for:

- Each unit (any unit may be retaken once only before a subject award is made. A unit result that has been used to count towards a Short Course award will remain available for inclusion in a Full Course award)
- The GCSE Short Course subject award, if appropriate
- The GCSE Full Course subject award, if appropriate.

It is important to note that the overall GCSE Full and Short Course subject awards will only be awarded if the appropriate entry ('cash-in' claim) has been made by 21 February 2009.

Entry Codes for Full Course GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION A (NEW Specification)		SERIES AVAILABILITY 2008-2009	
		Series 6G08 Nov 2008	Series 6G09 June 2009
<i>Specification Code: 4060</i> <i>Basedata Group Code: 4060</i>			
Unit 1A:	Christianity	40601A	✘ ✓
Unit 1B:	Christian Belief and Practice with Reference to the Roman Catholic Tradition	40601B	✘ ✓
Unit 1C:	The Christian Life and St Mark's Gospel	40601C	✘ ✓
Unit 1D:	Christianity and the Synoptic Gospels	40601D	✘ ✓
Unit 2A:	Effects of Christianity on Behaviour, Attitudes and Lifestyles	40602A	✘ ✓
Unit 2B:	Effects of the Roman Catholic Tradition on Aspects of Christian Lifestyle and Behaviour	40602B	✘ ✓
GCSE Subject Award		4061	✘ ✓
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> ONE from 40601A, 40601B, 40601C, 40601D + ONE from 40602A, 40602B </div>			

Additional information for Religious Studies Specification A (4061)



A Unit entry will not trigger certification; centres are also required to make an entry for the overall GCSE subject award (4061).

Entry Codes for Short Course GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION A (SHORT COURSE) (NEW Specification)		ENTRY CODE	SERIES AVAILABILITY 2008-2009	
			Series 6G08 Nov 2008	Series 6G09 June 2009
<i>Specification Code: 4060</i> <i>Basedata Group Code: 4060</i>				
Unit 1A:	Christianity	40601A	✘ ✓	
Unit 1B:	Christian Belief and Practice with Reference to the Roman Catholic Tradition	40601B	✘ ✓	
Unit 1C:	The Christian Life and St Mark's Gospel	40601C	✘ ✓	
Unit 1D:	Christianity and the Synoptic Gospels	40601D	✘ ✓	
Unit 2A:	Effects of Christianity on Behaviour, Attitudes and Lifestyles	40602A	✘ ✓	
Unit 2B:	Effects of the Roman Catholic Tradition on Aspects of Christian Lifestyle and Behaviour	40602B	✘ ✓	
GCSE Subject Award		4062	✘ ✓	
<i>One from 40601A, 40601B, 40601C, 40601D, 40602A OR 40602B</i>				

Additional information for Religious Studies Specification A (Short Course) (4062)



A Unit entry will not trigger certification; centres are also required to make an entry for the overall subject award (4062).

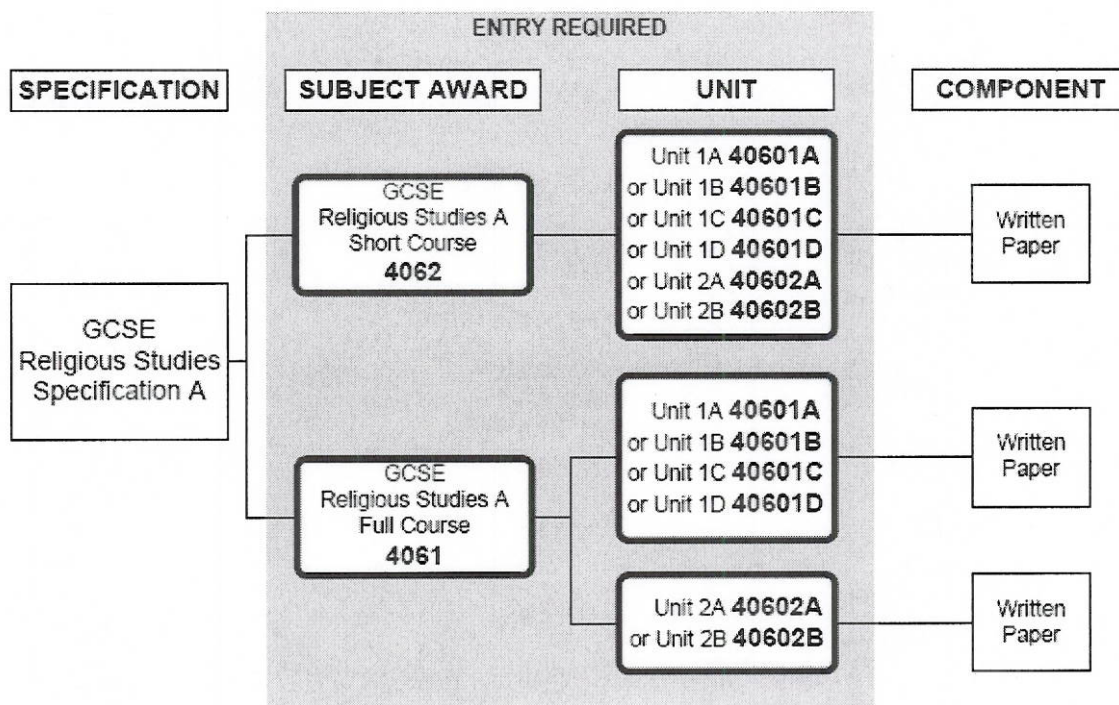


Candidates may not also enter for GCSE Religious Studies Specification B (3062) (subject award), GCSE Religious Studies Specification C (3063) or GCSE Religious Studies Specification C (Short Course) (3068) in the same examination series.



This specification is available to private candidates.

Assessment and Entry Structure for GCSE Religious Studies Specification A



This information is also confirmed in the *Entry Procedures* document to be used by your Examinations Officer. Please note the following link to this document on our web site:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/admin/library/ENTRYPROCCODES.PDF>

2. 2009 examination: Improvements to layout of Question Paper Answer Books in order to support candidates

Following the 2008 examinations in GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Paper 1C *St Mark's Gospel* and Paper 2B *Effects of the Roman Catholics Tradition upon Aspects of Christian Lifestyle and Behaviour*, we have made improvements to the layout of the question paper answer booklets in order to further support candidates. It would be most helpful if you could draw the following instructions to the attention of candidates taking 2009 examinations in Units 1C and 2B.

Essay plans

Essay plans and rough work must **not** be written on the insert; candidates should write them either at an appropriate point in the question paper answer booklet or on additional sheets which should be tied loosely to the back of the answer booklet.

Answer Space

Candidates will continue to be instructed to answer Parts A and B in the spaces provided in the question paper answer booklet. In Part C, candidates will, for the first time in 2009, have a choice of questions to answer. Candidates will be asked to answer **two** questions from the four provided. Candidates will be instructed to write their answers to the first question selected in Part C on, for example, pages 9 to 14, and to write their answers to the second question in Part C on, for example, pages 15 to 20. As a result of this instruction, candidates will be directed to

produce any rough work and / or essay plans on continuation sheets and to attach these to the back of their answer booklet.

Specimen Instructions

Provided, as an attachment, are specimen instructions as they will appear on the front of the question paper answer booklet and at the start of the answer spaces for Part C questions. (I would stress that the question numbers and pages allocated to questions may vary from paper to paper, and across examination series – they are provided here for illustrative purposes only.) It may be a useful exercise to make copies of these rubric requirements available to candidates prior to the examinations, in order to offset any possible confusion that may arise on the day of the examinations when candidates are already feeling under pressure. A full specimen question paper for each of Units 1C and 2B, confirming these instructions and the layout of question papers, will be published on our web site by the end of December, together with examples of candidates' work and commentaries on them prepared by Sheila Butler and Joe McCann, the respective Principal Examiners for Units 1C and 2B.

Quality of Written Communication

Candidates for both Unit 1C (40601C) *The Christian Life and St Mark's Gospel* and Unit 2B (40602B) *Effects of the Roman Catholic Tradition upon Aspects of Christian Lifestyle and Behaviour* will be instructed that the Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in answers given to **Part C questions only** (as was the case in 2007 and 2008). Candidates should be reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in their answers to Part C questions.

N.B. The instructions for candidates taking Units 1A, 1B, 1D and 2A remain unchanged from previous examinations.

3. Availability of re-sit opportunities in modular GCSE Religious Studies Specification A (4061/4062)

I can confirm that AQA will offer **resit opportunities in all externally assessed units within Specifications A and B in January 2011**. This is so that we meet the agreements made between awarding bodies and QCA / Ofqual to provide:

- re-sit arrangements for external assessments in all unitised / modular qualifications
- one re-sit opportunity for each external assessment unit following the final summer examinations of the legacy specification.

Centres should note that entries will have to be made by September 2010. Full details will be issued to Examinations Officers.

4. Launch of AQA's new GCSE Religious Studies Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles* and Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*

We have developed two exciting new GCSE Religious Studies Specifications, which I hope that you have had an opportunity to consider at one of the many launch meetings that we have held since August, and which run into December. Details of the remaining meetings are provided overleaf.

We consulted centres widely when developing these Specifications, in order to ensure that we:

- carried forward the material that teachers enjoy delivering
- carried forward the material that candidates enjoy studying
- **either** revised material that was not attractive to teachers and / or candidates, **or** replaced it altogether with new and exciting material.

Our new **Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles*** provides continuity for those centres currently offering Christianity options from within Specification A and / or those centres currently offering World Religions options from within Specification C. The full range of units available for study are:

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

Our new **Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*** provides continuity for those centres currently offering options within Specification B. The full range of units available for study are:

- 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*

If you would like to find out further information about our new Specifications, you can **either** go to the following web pages

Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles*

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/rel_studies_a_overview.php?id=10&prev=10

Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/rel_studies_b_overview.php?id=10&prev=10

or contact me direct on 0161 958 3821.

Alternatively, I would be delighted if you could join us at one of the following launch meetings. You can book your free place on line at

<http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/ViewMeetings.jsp?refresh=83926612>

Meeting Reference	Date	Location
RSTS126M	Thursday 27 November	Newcastle Upon Tyne
RSTS128M	Thursday 11 December	London

If you are unable to join us at one of the remaining meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be delighted to arrange for a delegate pack to be made available to you.

There will also be a full programme of **free** unit-specific meetings in the spring term. We will write to confirm the dates of the meetings shortly.

Thank you for your continued support of AQA's GCSE Religious Studies Specification A – it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Officer for Religious Studies and Classics

Surname					Other Names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				
Candidate Signature									

Leave blank

General Certificate of Secondary Education
Specimen Paper

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (SPECIFICATION A) 4060/1C
RELIGIOUS STUDIES (SPECIFICATION A) (SHORT COURSE)



Paper 1C The Christian Life and St Mark's Gospel

Day / Date / Month / Year Time

You will need no other materials

Time allowed
1 hour 45 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions in parts A and B.
- Answer **two** questions in Part C.
- Write your answers to Parts A and B in the spaces provided in this booklet.
- Write your answer to the first question chosen in Part C on pages **9 to 14**. Write your answer to the second question chosen in Part C on pages **15 to 20**.
- Do all rough work in this booklet.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Answers written in the margins or on blank pages will **not** be marked.
- If you use any additional sheets, tie them loosely to the back of this booklet.
- Do **not** write on the insert. Any work on the insert will **not** be marked.
- Do **not** place the insert into the booklet at the end of the examination.
- You must **not** use a Bible.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 83.
- Three of these marks will be awarded for the Quality of Written Communication.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in **Part C questions** only.

For Examiner's Use			
Number	Mark	Number	Mark
A1		C6	
A2		C7	
A3		C8	
B4		C9	
B5			
Total (Column 1)		→	
Total (Column 2)		→	
Quality of Written Communication			
TOTAL			
Examiner's Initials			

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Please ask for: Deborah Garnett

Your ref:
Our ref: RS/GCSE B/DAG

For the attention of GCSE Religious Studies teachers

November 2008

Dear Colleague

**GCSE Religious Studies Specification B *World and Philosophical Perspectives on Religious Issues*
(3062/3067)**

I am writing to remind you of a number of important changes regarding GCSE Religious Studies Specification B *World and Philosophical Perspectives on Religious Issues* and to update you on the progress with the launch of our new Specifications, available for first assessment in summer 2010.

1. 2009 examination: Confirmation of entry codes

When making an entry for Specification B (3062/3067), please note that you will need to make a **separate entry** for:

- Each unit (any unit may be retaken once only before a subject award is made. A unit result that has been used to count towards a Short Course award will remain available for inclusion in a Full Course award)
- The GCSE Short Course subject award, if appropriate
- The GCSE Full Course subject award, if appropriate.

It is important to note that the overall GCSE Full and Short Course subject awards will only be awarded if the appropriate entry ('cash-in' claim) has been made by 21 February 2009.

Entry Codes for Full Course GCSE Religious Studies Specification B

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION B		ENTRY CODE
<i>Specification Code: 3062</i> <i>Basedata Group Code: 3060</i>		
Unit 1:	Thinking about God and Morality	30601
Unit 2:	Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues	30602
Unit 3:	Faith Studies and Ethics in Two Religions	30603
Unit 4:	Truth, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues	30604
GCSE Subject Award <i>ONE from 30601, 30602, 30603 + 30604</i>		3062

SERIES AVAILABILITY 2008-2009	
Series 8G08 Nov 2008	Series 8G09 June 2009
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓

Additional information for Religious Studies Specification B (3062)



A Unit entry will not trigger certification; centres are also required to make an entry for the overall GCSE subject award (3062).



Candidates entering for the subject award in Religious Studies Specification B (3062) may not also enter for GCSE Religious Studies Specification A (4061), GCSE Religious Studies Specification A (Short Course) (4062), GCSE Religious Studies Specification C (3063) or GCSE Religious Studies Specification C (Short Course) (3068) in the same examination series.



This specification is available to private candidates.

Entry Codes for Short Course GCSE Religious Studies Specification B

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION B (SHORT COURSE)		ENTRY CODE
<i>Specification Code: 3067</i> <i>Basedata Group Code: 3060</i>		
Unit 1:	Thinking about God and Morality	30601
Unit 2:	Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues	30602
Unit 3:	Faith Studies and Ethics in Two Religions	30603
Unit 4:	Truth, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues	30604
GCSE Subject Award <i>ONE from 30601 OR 30602 OR 30603 OR 30604</i>		3067

SERIES AVAILABILITY 2008-2009	
Series 8G08 Nov 2008	Series 8G09 June 2009
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓

Additional information for Religious Studies Specification B (Short Course) (3067)

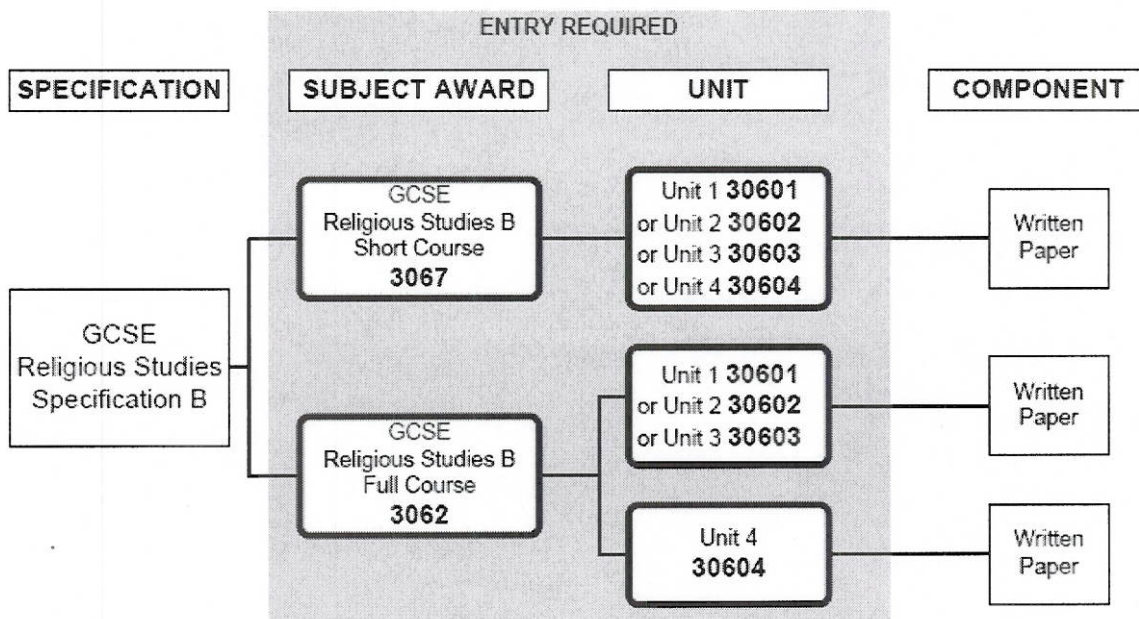


A Unit entry will not trigger certification; centres are also required to make an entry for the overall subject award (3067).



This specification is available to private candidates.

Assessment and Entry Structure for GCSE Religious Studies Specification B



This information is also confirmed in the *Entry Procedures* document to be used by your Examinations Officer. Please note the following link to this document on our web site:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/admin/library/ENTRYPROCCODES.PDF>

2. Availability of re-sit opportunities in modular GCSE Religious Studies Specification B (3062/3067)

I can confirm that AQA will offer **resit opportunities in all externally assessed units within GCSE Religious Studies Specifications A and B in January 2011**. This is so that we meet the agreements made between awarding bodies and QCA / Ofqual to provide:

- re-sit arrangements for external assessments in all unitised / modular qualifications
- one re-sit opportunity for each external assessment unit following the final summer examinations of the legacy specification.

Centres should note that entries will have to be made by September 2010. Full details will be issued to Examinations Officers.

3. Launch of AQA's new GCSE Religious Studies Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles* and Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*

We have developed two exciting new GCSE Religious Studies Specifications, which I hope that you have had an opportunity to consider at one of the many launch meetings that we have held since August, and which run into December. Details of the remaining meetings are provided overleaf.

We consulted centres widely when developing these Specifications, in order to ensure that we:

- carried forward the material that teachers enjoy delivering
- carried forward the material that candidates enjoy studying
- **either** revised material that was not attractive to teachers and / or candidates, or replaced it altogether with new and exciting material.

Our new **Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles*** provides continuity for those centres currently offering Christianity options from within Specification A and / or those centres currently offering World Religions options from within Specification C. The full range of units available for study are:

- Unit 1 *Christianity*
- Unit 2 *Christianity: Ethics*
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- Unit 11 *Judaism: Ethics*
- Unit 12 *Buddhism*
- Unit 13 *Hinduism*
- Unit 14 *Sikhism*

Our new **Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*** provides continuity for those centres currently offering options within Specification B. The full range of units available for study are:

- 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*

If you would like to find out further information about our new Specifications, you can **either** go to the following web pages

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Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/rel_studies_b_overview.php?id=10&prev=10

or contact me direct on 0161 958 3821.

Alternatively, I would be delighted if you could join us at one of the following launch meetings. You can book your free place on line at

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Meeting Reference	Date	Location
RSTS126M	Thursday 27 November	Newcastle Upon Tyne
RSTS128M	Thursday 11 December	London

If you are unable to join us at one of the remaining meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be delighted to arrange for a delegate pack to be made available to you.

There will also be a full programme of **free** unit-specific meetings in the spring term. We will write to confirm the dates of the meetings shortly.

Thank you for your continued support of AQA's GCSE Religious Studies Specification B – it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Officer for Religious Studies and Classics

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 E-mail: dgarnett@aqa.org.uk
 Please ask for: Deborah Garnett

Your ref:
 Our ref: RS/GCSE C/DAG

For the attention of GCSE Religious Studies teachers

November 2008

Dear Colleague

Launch of AQA's new GCSE Religious Studies Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles* and Specification B *Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society*

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- **either** revised material that was not attractive to teachers and / or candidates, **or** replaced it altogether with new and exciting material.

Our new **Specification A *Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles*** provides continuity for those centres **currently offering** Christianity options from within **Specification A** and / or those centres currently offering World Religions options from within **Specification C**. The full range of units available for study are:

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

Our new **Specification B Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society** provides continuity for those centres currently offering options within **Specification B**. The full range of units available for study are:

- 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*

If you would like to find out further information about our new Specifications, you can **either** go to the following web pages

Specification A Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/rel_studies_a_overview.php?id=10&prev=10

Specification B Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society

http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/rel_studies_b_overview.php?id=10&prev=10

or contact me direct on 0161 958 3821.

Alternatively, I would be delighted if you could join us at one of the following launch meetings. You can book your free place on line at

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If you are unable to join us at one of the remaining meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be delighted to arrange for a delegate pack to be made available to you.

There will also be a full programme of **free** unit-specific meetings in the spring term. We will write to confirm the dates of the meetings shortly.

Thank you for your continued support of AQA's GCSE Religious Studies Specification C – it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Officer for Religious Studies and Classics

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