

Thomas, Rebecca

From: Garnett, Deborah [dgarnett@aqg.org.uk]
Sent: 04 February 2009 10:23
To: Garnett, Deborah
Subject: AQA GCE Religious Studies: Introduction of Religious Experience as a New Topic in Unit 4A and Improvements to the Specification Content

Attachments: 2009 A2 Unit 4A Mark Schemes and Question Papers for Network Group.pdf; A2 Unit 4A Teachers' Guide in template.pdf; A2 Unit 4A Topic III Religious Experience Candidate Work in template.pdf; Unit A RSS01 revisions.pdf; Unit B RSS02 revisions.pdf; Unit D RSS04 revisions.pdf; Unit E RSS05 revisions.pdf; Unit G RSS07 revisions.pdf; Unit J RSS09 revisions.pdf; Unit K RSS10 revisions.pdf; Unit L RSS11 revisions.pdf; Unit 3A RST3A revisions.pdf; Unit 3F RST3F revisions.pdf; Unit 3H RST3H revisions.pdf; Unit 4B RST4B revisions.pdf

Hello Everyone

I am writing to confirm:

- that following feedback from centres, Religious Experience will be included as a new topic in Unit 4A **from the June 2010 examination onwards**, and
- a range of improvements to the Specification content in order to further support teachers' delivery (**effective from the January 2010 examination**).

Introduction of Religious Experience as a New Topic in Unit 4A

I am delighted to confirm that, following consultation with centres, Religious Experience will be included as a new topic (Topic III) in Unit 4A, **from the June 2010 examination onwards**. The revised Specification will be made available on the AQA web site as a pdf file. To download your copy, please follow this link http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/religious_studies_new.php

The **Specification content** for the new Topic III in Unit 4A is as follows:

- Ideas about what might in general terms be regarded as a religious experience and what the term might mean. The relationship between definitions of God / gods / Ultimate Reality and any idea of religious experience. Identification of different types and styles of religious experience with particular reference to conversion, visions, revelation, mystical experience. Scholars' definitions with particular reference to characteristics and process of the different types and style of religious experience.
- Influence of religious experience as a source of (i) religious practice (ii) good religious behaviour, in both western and eastern religious traditions. The value of religious experience in particular religions, both as historical events and as ongoing present day experiences.
- Religious experience as a foundation for particular religions. Religious experience as a source of faith for individual religious people, and the contribution religious experience makes to religious faith as a whole.
- Methods for establishing the validity of different religious experiences, both individual and corporate experiences. The verification of religious experience and its place, if verified, in a particular religion the value for the religious community and for an individual.

I can confirm that Specimen Questions, a Teachers' Guide and an example of candidate's work together with a commentary produced by the Principal Examiner, have all been produced in support of this new topic. I attach them, for your consideration, below.

Specimen Question Paper and Mark Scheme

<<2009 A2 Unit 4A Mark Schemes and Question Papers for Network Group.pdf>>

Teachers' Guide

<<A2 Unit 4A Teachers' Guide in template.pdf>>

Example of Candidate's Work and Commentary by the Principal Examiner for Unit 4A

<<A2 Unit 4A Topic III Religious Experience Candidate Work in template.pdf>>

Improvements to the Specification Content

Improvements have been made to the content of the following units and to the Levels of Response Descriptors for both AS and A2 Levels.

AS Unit Title

Unit A (RSS01) Religion and Ethics 1
Unit B (RSS02) Religion and Ethics 2
Unit D (RSS04) Religion, Philosophy and Science
Unit E (RSS05) The History of Christianity
Unit G (RSS07) New Testament
Unit J (RSS09) Buddhism and Sikhism
Unit K (RSS10) Judaism and Islam 1 *The Way of Submission*
Unit L (RSS11) Islam 2 *The Life of the Prophet*

A2 Unit Title

Unit 3A (RST3A) Religion and Ethics
Unit 3F (RST3F) Religion and Contemporary Society
Unit 3H (RST3H) Islam
Unit 4B (RST4B) Topic III Religion and the Visual Arts

All improvements are identified in the attachments (and in a letter being despatched to centres this week) by a line in the margin against the appropriate text. The amendments indicated are effective **from the January 2010 examination onwards**.

The revised Specification (marked version 1.1) will shortly be made available on the AQA web site as a pdf file. To download your copy, please follow this link http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/religious_studies_new.php (Please note that there are no plans to reissue the Specification in hard copy.)

All other units remain unchanged from the version marked 1.0, published in 2007.

AS Units Revised

<<Unit A RSS01 revisions.pdf>> <<Unit B RSS02 revisions.pdf>> <<Unit D RSS04 revisions.pdf>>
<<Unit E RSS05 revisions.pdf>> <<Unit G RSS07 revisions.pdf>> <<Unit J RSS09 revisions.pdf>>
<<Unit K RSS10 revisions.pdf>> <<Unit L RSS11 revisions.pdf>>

A2 Units Revised

<<Unit 3A RST3A revisions.pdf>> <<Unit 3F RST3F revisions.pdf>> <<Unit 3H RST3H revisions.pdf>>
<<Unit 4B RST4B revisions.pdf>>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should I be of further assistance with regard the above mentioned information.

With best wishes

Deborah

Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Manager for Religious Studies and Classics

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