Religious Studies recommended time per question

The below outlines the recommended times for candidates to spend answering each question in the GCSE, AS and A level question papers for the new Religious Studies qualifications (first teaching 2016)

These are just suggestions. Teachers will know their students best and be able to recommend times for them based on their ability and preferences.

The purpose of these tables is to offer some initial guidance.

The tables also include the command words and number of marks for each question for information.

GCSE RS Spec A

Question	Command word	No. of marks	Minutes
1 (a)	State	3	3
1 (b)	Explain	4	4
1 (c)	Explain	5	4
1 (d)	Evaluate	15	15
2 (a)	Outline	3	3
2 (b)	Explain	4	4
2 (c)	Explain	5	4
2 (d)	Evaluate	12	15
3 (a)	Outline	3	3
3 (b)	Explain	4	4
3 (c)	Explain	5	4
3 (d)	Evaluate	15	15
4 (a)	Outline	3	3
4 (b)	Explain	4	4
4 (c)	Explain	5	4
4 (d)	Evaluate	12	15

Any remaining time can be used to check answers

GCSE RS Spec B

Question	Command word	No. of marks	Minutes
1 (a)	State	3	3
1 (b)	Explain	4	4
1 (c)	Explain	5	4
1 (d)	Evaluate	15	15
2 (a)	Outline	3	3
2 (b)	Explain	4	4
2 (c)	Explain	5	4
2 (d)	Evaluate	12	15
3 (a)	Outline	3	3
3 (b)	Explain	4	4
3 (c)	Explain	5	4
3 (d)	Evaluate	15	15
4 (a)	Outline	3	3
4 (b)	Explain	4	4
4 (c)	Explain	5	4
4 (d)	Evaluate	12	15

Any remaining time can be used to check answers

AS level SAMs

Question	Command word	No. of marks	Minutes
1	Explore	8	8
2	Assess	9	10
3	Assess	9	10
4 (a)	Explore	8	8
4 (b)	Analyse	20	20

Any remaining time can be used to check answers

A level SAMs

Question	Command word	No. of marks	Minutes
1	Explore	8	10
2	Assess	12	20
3 (a)	Clarify	10	15
3 (b)	Analyse	20	30
4	Evaluate	30	40

Any remaining time can be used to check answers

05.06.2017 - Update on answer space length

Please note that the length of the answer spaces on the live examination papers will be amended to bring them in line with legacy/current examination papers, and may look different from the published sample assessment materials on the website. This is to ensure candidates have enough space to write their answers (and to accommodate various handwriting styles and sizes), and is not a change in requirement in the amount of answers candidates must write.

Candidates do **not** have to fill the whole of the answer space for each question.