

FAQs relating to the removal of the January examination session for A level Religious Studies

Q: Has the content of the AS or A level Religious Studies changed at all for 2013?

A: No, the content remains the same.

Q: Can students still re-take AS units at the end of the course in Year 13 in order to improve their overall grade?

A: Yes.

Q: How do I structure the AS course now that there are no January exams for AS?

A: See pages 5-13 of the Tutor Support Materials for AS and A2 course planners. This is available to download from <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce08/rs/Pages/default.aspx>.

Q: Will there be any limits on the number of times a unit can be sat (or re-taken) before cash-in?

A: Rules concerning re-takes have not changed, so any number of re-takes are possible before cash-in.

Q: Have cash-in rules changed in any way?

A: No, other than that cash-in opportunities will now only be available for summer sessions.

Q: Will there be any limits on the number of times an AS or A level qualification can be sat (or re-taken)?

A: Rules concerning re-taking of the whole qualification have not changed, so an AS or A level in Religious Studies can be sat as often as required.

Q: Will students be allowed to sit (or re-sit) any number of AS units at a session, or must they sit 2 AS at a time?

A: Students will be able to sit any number of units at a session; for example, a student might sit AS Units 1 and 2 in June 2013 and then might want to re-sit just Unit 1 or Unit 2 in June 2014.

Q: Have the rules for the award of A* grades changed in any way?

A: No, the rules for the award of A* grades remain the same.

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres in Wales?

A: Edexcel/Pearson will not be offering January examinations to centres in Wales.

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres in Northern Ireland?

A: Edexcel/Pearson will not be offering January examinations to centres in Northern Ireland

Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres outside the UK?

A: There will be no January examinations outside the UK for the UK AS and A level Religious Studies.

Q: When are new AS and A levels expected?

A: Ofqual has confirmed that there will be new A levels from September 2015 (for first assessment in 2017) in the facilitating subjects* (except languages), along with six additional subjects.

Facilitating subjects:

- English (Language, Literature and Language & Literature)
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- History
- Geography.

Plus:

- Psychology
- Art and Design
- Sociology
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Computing.

*The A level subjects that the Russell Group of Universities most frequently ask for are known as the facilitating subjects.

Ofqual has not confirmed the date for first teaching of the new AS and A level qualifications in Religious Studies.