



Pearson

Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Religious Studies

Curriculum Mapping to AQA GCSE Religious Studies B and Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies (Route B)

First teaching September 2024

First certification from 2025

The information in this document is relevant if you are currently teaching either AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B) or Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B) and intend to offer Pearson Edexcel's Entry Level Certificate in Religious Studies Specification (NRS0).

Contents

Section 1: Rationale for the qualification	4
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Learning aims and objectives	4
Section 2: Qualification Content	5
2.1 Content mapping against AQA's and Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies	5
• Paper 1	
• Paper 2	
• Paper 3	
• Paper 4	
2.2 Total qualification time	40
2.3 Progression	40

Section 1: Rationale for the qualification

1.1 Introduction

GCSE Religious Studies is too demanding for some candidates. This Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Religious Studies is designed as a qualification that offers candidates who are unlikely to achieve grade 1 in GCSE Religious Studies the opportunity to achieve a certificated award. This specification has been designed to build on work undertaken at Key Stage 3, and is aimed specifically at Catholic schools, which typically require all students to continue taking RS until age 16.

Whilst this ELC in Religious Studies is designed to be fully co-teachable alongside Edexcel's GCSE Religious Studies (Specification A), some centres may consider delivering this qualification alongside AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B) or Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B) where some content is likely to be co-teachable. This document is designed to show where content from this ELC aligns with content present in these two GCSE specifications and to highlight areas which would require further supplementary study, to ensure full coverage of content found in the ELC specification.

1.2 Learning aims and objectives

The aims and learning objectives for this qualification are to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices
- develop knowledge and understanding of sources of wisdom and authority
- develop knowledge and understanding of forms of expression and ways of life
- develop knowledge and understanding of key ideas of religious philosophy and ethics.

Section 2: Qualification Content

This section details how the content for the ELC in Religious Studies has been developed.

2.1 Content development

The content of the Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Religious Studies is based on the content of Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies A qualification, specifically those papers taken by Catholic schools, which are:

- 1A Catholic Christianity: Study of Religion
- 2F Judaism: Study of Second Religion
- 3A Catholic Christianity: Philosophy and Ethics

The weighting of these GCSE papers is 50/25/25.

We have divided the GCSE Content for paper 1 into two ELC Papers, and thus end up with four equally weighted ELC Papers.

Entry Level Certificate	GCSE RS A
Paper 1: Catholic Beliefs, Teachings and Practices	Paper 1: Study of First Religion Option 1A Catholic Christianity
Paper 2: Catholic Wisdom and Living	
Paper 3: Jewish Beliefs, Teachings and Practices	Paper 2: Study of Second Religion, Option 1F Judaism
Paper 4: Catholic Philosophy and Ethics	Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics Option 3A Catholic Christianity

The ELC content is a simplified version of the GCSE content, with nothing added. In some cases, complex and non-essential GCSE ideas are omitted in order that greater focus can be given to the key points. Greater detail is provided in ELC so that teachers are clear about the essential points that must be learned.

Content found in the ELC in Religious Studies corresponds exactly to its equivalent in Pearson's GCSE in Religious Studies for optimal co-teachability and a document demonstrating this exact mapping can be downloaded by clicking [this link](#).

Paper 1

Pearson Edexcel's ELC in Religious Studies	Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B)	Considerations for delivery	AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B)	Considerations for delivery
1.1 The Trinity,	Component 1 Theme 2: Beliefs: Trinity		3.1.3 The Triune God, mission and prayer	
1.2 The Trinity in the Bible	Component 1 Theme 2: Beliefs: Trinity		3.1.3 The Triune God, mission and prayer	
1.3 Creation	Component 1 Theme 1: Sources: The Bible		3.1.1 Creation	
1.4 The importance of creation	Component 1 Theme 1: Beliefs: Creation		3.1.1 Creation	
1.5 The incarnation	Component 1 Theme 2: Beliefs: Incarnation		3.1.2 Incarnation	
1.6 The Paschal Mystery	Component 2 Theme 3: Death and the afterlife		3.1.6 Eschatology: Christian life, death and eternity & 3.1.4 Redemption	
1.7 The importance of Jesus	Component 2 Theme 4: Beliefs: Redemption		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
1.8 Life after death	Component 2 Theme 3: Death and the afterlife		3.1.6 Eschatology: Christian life, death and eternity	
2.1 The sacramental nature of reality	Component 2 Theme 4: Practices: Sacraments		3.1.2 Incarnation	

2.2 The Catholic Mass	Component 2 Theme 4: Practices: Sacraments		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.3 The funeral rite	Component 2 Theme 3: Forms: Music and the funeral rite		Partial coverage - 3.1.6 Eschatology: Christian life, death and eternity	More detail is required here regarding the requirement to know about specific texts and prayers.
2.4 Prayer	Component 2 Theme 3: Practices: Prayer within Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere & Practices: Sacraments & Component 1 Theme 2: Practices: Popular devotion as practised in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.3 The Triune God, mission and prayer	
2.5 Popular piety	Component 1 Theme 2: Practices: Popular devotion as practised in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven & 3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	
2.6 Pilgrimage	Component 1 Theme 2: Practices: Popular devotion as practised in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	

2.7 Catholic social teaching	Component 1 Theme 1: Practices: Loving and Serving in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.1 Creation	
2.8 Catholic mission and evangelism	Component 2 Theme 4: Practices: Mission and Evangelisation in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.3 The Triune God, mission and prayer & 3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	

Paper 2

Pearson Edexcel's ELC in Religious Studies: Paper 2	Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B)	Considerations for delivery	AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B)	Considerations for delivery
1.1 The Bible	Component 1 Theme 1: Sources: The Bible		3.1.1 Creation	
1.2 Interpreting the Bible	Component 1 Theme 1: Sources: The Bible		3.1.1 Creation	
1.3 The authority of the Church	Component 2 Theme 3: Sources: The Magisterium		3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	
1.4 The Second Vatican Council	Component 2 Theme 3: Sources: The Magisterium		3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	
1.5 The Church as the Body of Christ and the People of God	Component 2 Theme 4: Sources: Church & Component 1 Theme 1: Practices: Loving and Serving in Catholic communities in Britain and elsewhere		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven & 3.1.1.4 Practices	
1.6 The four marks of the Church	Component 2 Theme 4: Sources: Church		3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	
1.7 Mary as a model of the Church	Component 2 Theme 4: Sources: Church		3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	

1.8 Making ethical decisions	Component 1 Theme 2: Sources: Jesus and moral authority		3.1.2 Incarnation	
2.1 Catholic church architecture	C2 T4: Forms: Buildings		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.2 Features of a Catholic church	Component 2 Theme 4: Forms: Buildings		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.3 Sacred objects	Component 2 Theme 4: Forms: Buildings		3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.4 Artwork in Catholicism	Partial coverage - Component 1 Theme 1: Forms: Symbolism / Forms: Painting	As the Eduqas specification has no unit specifically for music, this section would require expanding.	3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.5 Sculpture and statues	Component 1 Theme 2: Forms: Sculpture and Statuary		3.1.2 Incarnation & 3.1.4 Redemption – ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven	
2.6 Symbolism and imagery in art	Component 1 Theme 1: Forms: Symbolism		3.1.2 Incarnation	

2.7 Drama	No coverage	Exploring stations of the cross as a dramatised prayer could link here. There are also potential links to the celebration of Easter.	3.1.5 Church and the Kingdom of God	
2.8 Music in worship	Partial coverage - Component 2 Theme 3: Forms: Music and the funeral rite		3.1.3 The Triune God, mission and prayer	

Paper 3

Pearson Edexcel's ELC in Religious Studies: Paper 3	Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B)	Considerations for delivery	AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B)	Considerations for delivery
1.1 The nature of God	Component 3: The nature of God		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.2 The Shekhinah	Component 3: The nature of God		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.3 The Messiah	Component 3: Messiah (Mashiach)		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.4 The Covenant with Abraham	Component 3: Covenant		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.5 The covenant with Moses	Component 3: Covenant		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.6 The sanctity of life	Component 3: Life on earth		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.7 Religious Laws	Component 3: Life on earth		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	
1.8 Life after death	Component 3: The afterlife		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Beliefs and teachings	

2.1 Public acts of worship	Component 3: Worship: practices in Britain and elsewhere / The Synagogue		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.2 Food laws	Component 3: Daily life		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.3 Private prayer	Component 3: Worship: practices in Britain and elsewhere		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.4 The Shema and Amidah	Component 3: Worship: practices in Britain and elsewhere		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.5 Rituals	Component 3: Rituals		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.6 Shabbat	Component 3: Worship: practices in Britain and elsewhere		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.7 Festivals	Component 3: Festivals: practices in Britain and elsewhere		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	
2.8 Features of a synagogue	Component 3: The Synagogue		3.2.1.2 Judaism - Practices	

Paper 4				
Pearson Edexcel's ELC in Religious Studies: Paper 4	Eduqas' GCSE in Religious Studies (Route B)	Considerations for delivery	AQA's GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B)	Considerations for delivery
1.1 Revelation	Component 1 Theme 1: Sources: The Bible		No coverage	
1.2 Visions	No coverage		No coverage	
1.3 Miracles	No coverage	This section could potentially be linked to Popular devotion as practised in Catholic communities in Britain.	Partial coverage - 3.2.2.4 Theme D: St Mark's Gospel – the life of Jesus	This section only offers minor coverage of Pearson content and no discussion of what miracles actually are for Catholics so, would require expansion.
1.4 Religious Experiences	No coverage		No coverage	These sections would likely need to be taught as discreet additional content
1.5 The design argument	No coverage	This could potentially be linked to C1 T1 Origins and meaning.	No coverage	
1.6 The cosmological argument	No coverage	This section could potentially be linked to C1 T1	No coverage	

		Origins and meaning.		
1.7 The existence of suffering	Component 1 Theme 2: Good, Evil and Suffering	Could 1.7 & 1.8 be expanded when discussing bad design e.g. the presence of evil/suffering or, as part of origins and meaning	No coverage	
1.8 Solutions to the problem of suffering	Component 1 Theme 2: Good, Evil and Suffering			
2.1 Marriage	No coverage	These sections may be supported by the DfE's Statutory guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education and/or resources provided by the Catholic Education Service Catholic on the topic of	3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 2	
2.2 Sexual relationships	No coverage		3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 1	

2.3 The family	No coverage	Relationship & Sex Education (RSE).	3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 3	
2.4 Support for the family	No coverage		No coverage	This section would likely need to be taught as discreet additional content.
2.5 Family planning	No coverage		3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 3	
2.6 Divorce, annulment and remarriage	No coverage	This section could potentially be expanded as a part of marriage, found within Component 3: Rituals.	3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 2	
2.7 Equality of men and women in the family	No coverage	As with 2.2-2.5	3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 4	
2.8 Equality of men and women outside the family	No coverage		3.2.2 Section B: Themes - 3.2.2.1 Theme A: Religion, relationships and families - Dialogue 4	

2.2 Total qualification time

The Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification time for this qualification is 120 hours. This has been considered based on the expertise of the writing team.

2.3 Progression

There are no prior learning or other requirements for this qualification.

Students can progress from this qualification to:

- a GCSE in Religious Studies
- other Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications