

GCSE (9–1)

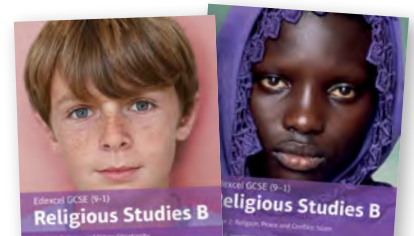
Religious Studies

Exploring different religions and beliefs

Discover our new qualifications for 2016



Look out for
Pearson's
published
resources
too!



Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies 2016

This brochure provides an overview of the specifications for our new Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies qualifications.

We'll outline how our specifications will inspire your students, address changes to the qualification, and we'll also outline the high-quality support and resources you can expect.

We'll provide:

- Two distinct approaches to suit your school **3**
- Choice of specifications Specification A & B **4-5**
- Flexible study combinations of religions and topics **6**
- Clear and accessible assessments **7**
- Expert support and guidance **8-11**
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Exploring different religions and beliefs

We have a choice of two GCSE Religious Studies qualifications that will allow you to explore the different topics, religions and beliefs you know your students enjoy whilst helping them to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Our qualifications encourage students to engage with a wide range of concepts to enable them to interpret, contextualise and analyse the expressions of religions and worldviews they encounter with confidence.

Two distinct approaches to suit your school

Pearson currently offers two GCSE full courses offering two very distinct approaches to cater for the differing needs of faith and non-faith schools so you can pick the one that meets the needs of your students.

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A

Faith and Practice in the 21st Century



Full course

- Study of two religions split 75/25
- Primary religion from a choice of Christianity, Catholic Christianity or Islam
- Second religion from a choice of seven*
- Choice of Philosophy and Ethics or Textual Study in primary religion

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification B

Beliefs in Action



Full course

- Study of two religions split 50/50 from a choice of seven*
- Choose two components from:
 - Religion and Ethics
 - Religion, Peace and Conflict
 - Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice

**Choice of Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism or Sikhism. The two religions cannot be Christianity and Catholic Christianity.*

See pages 4-5 for our qualifications at a glance





Specification A:

Faith and Practice in the 21st Century

This specification enables schools to focus 75% of teaching on their primary religion allowing students to develop an in-depth understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices.

- You focus 75% of teaching on your primary religion and 25% on one other religion from a choice of seven.
- Offers a choice between Philosophy and Ethics or Textual Study (Mark's Gospel or the Qur'an) in your primary religion to help you build a course to suit your students.
- Brings to life the foundations of faith and practice.

GCSE Specification A at a glance

Consists of 3 Areas of Study, which are then assessed through 3 externally set examination papers (2 compulsory and your choice of paper 3 or paper 4).

Paper 1 – Study of Religion

- Choose 1 religion from Christianity, Catholic Christianity or Islam
- Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom & Authority, and Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Assessment ⌚ 1 hour 45 mins ⚖️ 50%

Paper 2 - Study of Second Religion

- Choose from Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism - must be different from primary religion and students can not study Christianity and Catholic Christianity together
- Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices

Assessment ⌚ 50 mins ⚖️ 25%

EITHER:

Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics

- Same as primary religion
- Content - Existence of God, Marriage and the family

Assessment ⌚ 50 mins ⚖️ 25%

OR:

Paper 4: Textual Study

- Same as primary religion
- Content – Choice of St Mark's Gospel or Qur'an

Assessment ⌚ 50 mins ⚖️ 25%

Specification B: Beliefs in Action



This specification enables schools to teach any combination of 2 different religions from a choice of 7 allowing you to build a course to suit your students and their interests.

- Equally weighted components allow you to focus 50% on each religion and area of study.
- Key themes and content can be taught through philosophical and ethical issues relating to the modern world to help you bring the course to life.
- The choice of 2 components from a list of 3 will help you to select areas of study to engage your students.

GCSE Specification B at a glance

Consists of 3 Areas of Study from which students study 2, which are then assessed through 2 externally set examination papers (each for a different religion and worth 50%).

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 - Religion & Ethics	Paper 2: Area of Study 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict	Paper 2: Area of Study 3 - Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice
Beliefs Depending on the religion - Belief in God, Belief in Allah, Belief in the Almighty or Belief in God and Existence		
Marriage and the Family	Crime and Punishment	Religious Experience
Living the Religious Life - of the chosen religion Depending on the religion - Living the Christian/Islamic/Catholic/Jewish/Buddhist/Sikh or Hindu Life		
Matters of Life and Death	Peace and Conflict	Equality
Assessment 1hr 45mins 50% exam	Assessment 1hr 45mins 50% exam	Assessment 1hr 45mins 50% exam
Students take 2 of the 3 papers Students must study two different religions from a choice of seven - the studied religion must be different for each area of study and cannot include Christianity and Catholic Christianity together		

Flexible study combinations of religions and topics

Whichever specification you decide is right for your school, you will enjoy plenty of flexibility when it comes to choosing the religions and topics to teach. Each course also includes familiar philosophy and ethics content shown to be very engaging and compelling to students.



Specification A includes the option of a Philosophy and Ethics paper or a Textual study of Marks Gospel or the Qur'an in your primary religion, to allow you to choose the route that is right for your students.



Specification B allows you to pick any two religions from a choice of seven and any two areas of study from a list of three, enabling you to introduce exciting and provocative debates relevant to the real world to engage your students.

Clear and accessible assessments

Our straightforward assessments are designed to be accessible to all students with a clear structure and easy to follow command words. In addition, our exam papers are split by religion, helping students to focus when it comes to revising.

- **Separate exam papers for each religion** that are straightforward to navigate, with clear and simple instructional text, and consistent use of command words.
- **Clear and straightforward mark schemes** help you to fully understand the assessment requirements.

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1

(a) Outline three Christian responses to the problem of evil and suffering. (3)

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(b) Explain two reasons why the Trinity is important to Christians. (4)

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c) Assess whether evil and suffering causes problems for Christian belief in God. (9)

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Sample page from the question paper for Specification B: Paper 1: Christianity

Expert support and guidance

Our support will help you plan, teach, track and assess our Edexcel

Plan


Our free **Getting Started Guide** gives you an overview of the new qualifications to help you get to grips with the changes to content and assessment and to help you understand what these changes mean for you and your students.

We'll give you free editable 2 and 3-year **course planners** and **scheme of works** that you can adapt to suit your department.

Our free **mapping documents** highlight the key differences between your current GCSE Religious Studies specification (from any awarding organisation) and our new Edexcel specifications.

Subject support

Our team of experts are on hand to help you with any questions. You can also sign up to receive emails to be kept up-to-date about qualifications support, training events, deadlines and more.

 0344 463 2817

 TeachingReligiousStudies@pearson.com

 Follow us on Twitter: [@PearsonEdexcel](https://twitter.com/PearsonEdexcel)

Find out more:

Specification A: quals.pearson.com/rs-gscse-speca

Specification B: quals.pearson.com/rs-gcse-specb

Sign-up for Subject Advisor ENews at

quals.pearson.com/rs-news

when you need it

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies qualifications with confidence.

Teach

Our free teaching and learning support will help you deliver the new qualifications, including:

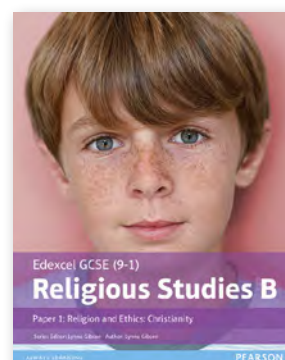
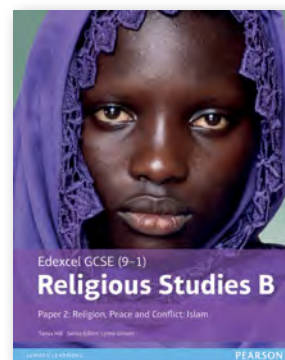
- **marked exemplars** of student work with **examiner commentaries**
- **key terms for the three main religions**
- **topic guides and other guidance documents.**

Published Resources

Pearson's paid-for resources* provide support for our **Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B** specification to help students tackle the content and assessments with confidence, including:

- **Two Specification B Student Books** covering Paper 1 Religion and Ethics - Christianity and Paper 2 Religion, Peace and Conflict - Islam.
- **A Revision Guide and Workbook** in print and digital formats to support preparation for the external assessments.

**It is not necessary to buy resources, including those from Pearson, to deliver our Edexcel specification.*



Find out more at:

pearsonschools.co.uk/rs-gcse

Expert support and guidance

Track and assess

When it comes to tracking progress and preparing for assessment, we'll provide support and resources to help you and your students throughout the course.

Supporting you

Free **Additional Specimen papers** will be made available so that you can get to grips with the format of the new papers and the level of demand as quickly as possible, and have extra papers to use with students in preparing for the exam.

Student exemplars and examiner commentaries will help you and your students understand the standard that's expected.

Access the support at:

Specification A - quals.pearson.com/rs-gcse-speca

Specification B - quals.pearson.com/rs-gcse-specb

ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. Widely used by teachers across the country, this free online service will help you identify the topics and skills where further learning would benefit your students.

quals.pearson.com/rs-resultsplus

examWizard

examWizard is a free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports.

quals.pearson.com/rs-examwizard

when you need it

Professional Development Academy

Supporting you with online Network Events

Our brand-new Professional Development Academy provides access to a wide range of high-quality training courses to support you in delivering the Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies qualifications with confidence.

We have a range of on-demand, live and self-guided courses available, creating flexible learning options at a time and place that suits you.

To browse our extensive range of training events and courses, visit the Professional Development Academy.

Visit Pearson PD Academy to book your place:

Spec A - quals.pearson.com/rs-gcsea-training

Spec B – quals.pearson.com/rs-gcseb-training

Next Steps ...

Sign up to teach

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

If you have decided to teach either of our qualifications, then sign-up to let us know so we can provide you with all the support you need to get up and running;

quals.pearson.com/rs-gcse-ito

For queries, information and support, we're here to help.

 Call us: **0344 463 2817**

@ Email us: **TeachingReligiousStudies@pearson.com**

 Follow us: **[@PearsonEdexcel](https://twitter.com/PearsonEdexcel)**

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