

# GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies

## Changes to Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies A – Issue 2.

#	Reference	Amendment	Rationale / any implications for teaching
<b>Specification – global changes</b>			
1	Qualification at a Glance (pp4–6)	Information about the content and assessment has been updated.	This has been done to improve clarity.
2	Taught content for Areas of Study 1–4	Topic references (e.g. 1A, 1B, etc) and Section Headings (e.g. Beliefs and Teachings) have been added throughout at the top of each page.	This makes it easier to navigate between religions and sections.
3	Taught content for Areas of Study 1–4	Numerous minor amendments have been made to correct typographic errors and improve consistency, e.g. capitalisation, spelling. Minor punctuation amendments have also been made for consistency or to improve clarity about what needs to be taught.	This improves consistency and readability. No implications for teaching. More significant updates are listed on the following page under ‘specific changes’.
4	Malpractice (p66)	Minor updates.	To reflect procedural changes since 2016
5	Appendix 3	The definition of ‘evaluate’ has been amended.	To simplify and clarify what is required, and align better with the changed (d) mark scheme.

<b>Specification updates – specific changes</b>			
<b>Area of Study 1</b>			
<b>1A Catholic Christianity</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
1A	1.5	First reference to John 1 removed.	This removes duplication as John 1:1–18 is already included at the end of the paragraph.
Section 2: Practices			
1A	2.7	Reference to Matthew 25:31–46 now spelled out in full.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority			
1A	3.1	Reworded and split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.
<b>1B Christianity</b>			
Section 4: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life			
1B	4.2	Reference to St Basil’s Homily 24 removed.	To correct erroneous reference.

<b>1C Islam</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
1C	1.5	Paragraph re-punctuated and reference for Injil changed from Surah 53:36 to 57:27.	To improve clarity and to correct reference.
1C	1.6	Surah 19, 32:11 changed to Surah 32:11	To correct reference.
Section 2: Practices			
1C	2.4	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.

<b>Area of Study 2</b>			
<b>2A Catholic Christianity</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2A	1.5	First reference to John 1 removed.	This removes duplication as John 1:1-18 is already included at end of the paragraph.
Section 2: Practices			
2A	2.7	Reference to Matthew 25:31-46 has been added.	This has been done to make 2A consistent with 1A.
<b>2B Christianity</b>			
Not applicable			
<b>2C Islam</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2C	1.5	Paragraph re-punctuated and reference for Injil changed from Surah 53:36 to 57:27.	To improve clarity and to correct reference.
2C	1.6	Surah 19, 32:11 changed to Surah 32:11	To correct reference.
Section 2: Practices			
2C	2.4	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.
<b>2D Buddhism</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2D	1.1 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.7	Paragraphs reorganised and re-worded, including changes to punctuation.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Practices			
2D	2.2	Punctuation changed, minor rewording.	To improve clarity.
<b>2E Hinduism</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2E	1.2	Brackets added around Taittiriya Upanishad 2.7.1-2 and Rig Veda 1.154.1-2	To improve clarity.

2E	1.8	'nature' added in brackets after 'prakriti'.	To improve clarity and accuracy of terminology, and make consistent with GCSE Religious Studies B.
<b>2F Judaism</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2F	1.4, 1.5	Ordering of content reversed: Covenant of Abraham is now 1.4 and Covenant of Sinai is 1.5.	This ordering is more logical.
2F	1.6	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Practices			
2F	2.5	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised: Brit Millah is now explicitly mentioned, and 'ceremonies' changed to 'rituals'	To improve clarity. Brit Milah was implied before as a birth ritual, but is now explicit. It is more accurate to refer to them as rituals than ceremonies.
<b>2G Sikhism</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and teachings			
2G	1.6	Additional wording added.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Practices			
2G	2.7	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.

<b>Area of Study 3</b>			
<b>3A Catholic Christianity</b>			
Section 2: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century			
3A	2.2	'homosexuality' changed to 'same-sex sexual relationships'.	To use more inclusive, up-to-date terminology which is better suited to the context in which it is used.
3A	2.3	Duplicated wording removed.	To improve clarity.
<b>3B Christianity</b>			
Section 2: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century			
3B	2.2	'homosexuality' changed to 'same-sex sexual relationships'.	To use more inclusive, up-to-date terminology which is better suited to the context in which it is used.
3B	2.4	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
<b>3C Islam</b>			
Section 1: Arguments for the Existence of God			
3C	1.1	Brackets added around Surah 34:46–50.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century			
3C	2.2	'homosexuality' changed to 'same-sex sexual relationships'.	To use more inclusive, up-to-date terminology which is better suited to the context in which it is used.

<b>Areas of Study 4</b>			
<b>4A Mark's Gospel</b>			
Not applicable			
<b>4B The Qur'an</b>			
Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings of Islam			
4B	1.3	Punctuation changes, including use of brackets, and rewording.	To improve clarity.
4B	1.5	The second references to Surah 57:4 and 21:30 have been removed.	To remove unnecessary duplication.
4B	1.6	Surah An-Nisa 4:105–35 amended to 4:105– <b>135</b>	Clarification of reference.
4B	2.3	Surah 21:5–86 amended to 21: <b>85</b> –86	Correction of reference.

### **Further Support & Guidance**

You can contact us in various ways:

- Email us: TeachingReligiousStudies@pearson.com
- Call us: UK: 0344 463 2535 (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm GMT)
- Book a Teams meeting with the subject advisor: <https://bit.ly/3xltNo6>

\*To stay informed, you can additionally sign up for subject updates, by following the link below:

- <https://bit.ly/3t4bJlx>