

GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies

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

#	Reference	Amendment	Rationale / any implications for teaching
Specification – global changes			
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 1-3	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 1-3	Numerous minor amendments have been made to correct typographic errors and improve consistency, for example 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 (p122)	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.

Specification updates – specific changes			
Area of Study 1			
1A Catholic Christianity			
Section 1: Beliefs			
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: Marriage and the Family			
1A	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.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
1A	3.7	Reference to Matthew 25:31-46 spelled out in full.	To improve clarity.
1B Christianity			
Section 2: Marriage and the Family			

1B	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.
1B	2.4	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
1C Islam			
Section 1: Beliefs			
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: Marriage and the Family			
1C	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.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
1C	3.4	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.
Section 4: Matters of Life and Death			
1C	4.8	Reference to Sahih al-Bukhari 38:513–518 changed to 45:656.	Updating with a more appropriate reference.
1D Buddhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
1D	1.1 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.7	Paragraphs reorganised and re-worded, including changes to punctuation.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Marriage and the Family			
1D	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.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
1D	3.2	Punctuation changes, minor rewording.	To improve clarity.
Section 4: Matters of Life and Death			
1D	4.2	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
1E Hinduism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
1E	1.2	Brackets added around Taittiriya Upanishad 2.7.1–2 and Rig Veda 1.154.1–2	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Marriage and the Family			
1E	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.
1E	2.4	Paragraph re-organised.	To improve clarity.

1F Judaism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
1F	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.
1F	1.6	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Marriage and the Family			
1F	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.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
1F	3.5	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised, 'ceremonies' changed to 'rituals'	It is more accurate to refer to them as rituals than ceremonies.
1G Sikhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
1G	1.6	Additional wording added.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Marriage and the Family			
1G	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.
1G	2.3	Paragraph re-organised.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
1G	3.7	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.

Area of Study 2			
2A Catholic Christianity			
Section 1: Beliefs			
2A	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: Crime and Punishment			
2A	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
2A	3.7	Reference to Matthew 25:31-46 spelled out in full.	To improve clarity.
2B Christianity			
Section 2: Crime and Punishment			
2A	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
2C Islam			
Section 1: Beliefs			

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: Crime and Punishment			
2C	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording elsewhere; 'Mosaic' changed to 'the Mosaic Community Trust'.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
2C	3.4	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.
2D Buddhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
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: Crime and Punishment			
2D	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
2D	3.2	Punctuation changes, minor rewording.	To improve clarity.
Section 4: Peace and Conflict			
2D	4.4	Aung San Suu Kyi removed.	This allows centres to choose their own suitable examples of the use of passive resistance.
2E Hinduism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
2E	1.2	Brackets added around Taittiriya Upanishad 2.7.1–2 and Rig Veda 1.154.1–2	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Crime and Punishment			
2E	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
2F Judaism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
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: Crime and Punishment			
2F	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
2F	2.7	Minor re-wording; addition of word 'divergent' before 'Jewish attitudes'.	To improve clarity.

Section 3: Living the religious life			
2F	3.5	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised, 'ceremonies' changed to 'rituals'	It is more accurate to refer to them as rituals than ceremonies.
2G Sikhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
2G	1.6	Additional wording added.	To improve clarity.
Section 2: Crime and Punishment			
2G	2.2	Duplicated wording removed, minor re-wording and/or punctuation changes.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
2G	3.7	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.

Area of Study 3			
3A Catholic Christianity			
Section 1: Beliefs			
3A	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 3: Living the religious life			
3A	3.7	Reference to Matthew 25:31-46 spelled out in full.	To improve clarity.
Section 4: Equality			
3A	4.2	Paragraph re-organised and re-worded.	To improve clarity.
3B Christianity			
Section 4: Equality			
3B	4.2	Paragraph re-organised and re-worded.	To improve clarity.
3C Islam			
Section 1: Beliefs			
3C	1.5	Paragraph re-punctuated and reference for Injil changed from Surah 53:36 to 57:27 .	To improve clarity and to correct reference.
3C	1.6	Surah 19, 32:11 changed to Surah 32:11	To correct reference.
Section 2: Philosophy of Religion			
3C	2.1	Brackets added around Surah 34:46-50.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
3C	3.4	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.
3D Buddhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			

3D	1.1 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.7	Paragraphs reorganised and re-worded, including changes to punctuation.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
3D	3.2	Punctuation changes, minor rewording.	To improve clarity.
3E Hinduism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
3E	1.2	Brackets added around Taittiriya Upanishad 2.7.1–2 and Rig Veda 1.154.1–2	To improve clarity.
3F Judaism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
3F	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.
3F	1.6	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
3F	3.5	Paragraph re-worded and re-organised, 'ceremonies' changed to 'rituals'	It is more accurate to refer to them as rituals than ceremonies.
Section 4: Equality			
3F	4.3	Reference to Chapter 8 removed.	To remove unnecessary wording.
3G Sikhism			
Section 1: Beliefs			
3G	1.6	Additional wording added.	To improve clarity.
Section 3: Living the religious life			
3G	3.7	Paragraph split into two sentences.	To improve clarity.

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>