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:

- the widest choice of specifications .................................. page 4
- two distinct approaches to suit your school .................... page 5
- flexible study combinations of religions and topics ........................................................................ page 8
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- expert support and guidance when you need it ......................................................................................... page 10-13

Exploring different religions and beliefs

We have developed a range of 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.

Working with you

We’ve worked with the teaching community, subject associations and universities to make sure our Edexcel GCSE specifications for first teaching in 2016 have been shaped by you, to help your students develop a good knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

Next steps …

Once you’ve read through this guide, turn to the back page for details of how to:

1. Sign up to teach our new qualifications and get specification updates, free support and event invites.
2. Reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack to be the first to see our new resources once published.
The widest choice of specifications

Pearson offers the widest range of qualifications with two GCSE full courses + two GCSE short courses, so you can pick the one that meets the needs of all 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
- **Short course**
  - Study of two religions* split 50/50
  - Choose from Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam or Judaism

**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
- **Short course**
  - Study of two religions* split 50/50
  - Two components: Religion and Ethics; Religion, Peace & Conflict (one in each religion)

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

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### Two distinct approaches to suit your school

Our specifications offer two very distinct approaches to cater for the differing needs of faith and non-faith schools.

**Specification A (full course): 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.

**Specification B (full course): 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.

See pages 6-7 for our qualifications at a glance
Specification A at a glance

Our draft Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies A (Full Course) 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).

**GCSE Specification A: Full course overview**

**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**
  - Content – Choice of of St Mark’s Gospel or Qur’an

Assessment 50 mins 25%

**Short course A overview**
Assessed through 2 externally examined papers.

**Paper 1 - Study of Religion**
- Choose 1 religion from Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam or Judaism
- Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices

Assessment 50 mins 50%

**Paper 2 - Study of Religion**
- Choose 1 religion from Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam or Judaism - students must study two different religions and cannot study Christianity and Catholic Christianity together
- Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices

Assessment 50 mins 50%

Subject to accreditation by Ofqual.

Specification B at a glance

Our draft Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies B (Full Course) 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%).

**GCSE Specification B: Full course overview**

**Paper 1: Area of Study 1 - Religion & Ethics**
- Choice of 7 religions (must be different to paper 2)

Assessment 1hr 45mins 50% exam

**Paper 2: Area of Study 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict**
- Choice of 7 religions (must be different to paper 1)

Assessment 1hr 45mins 50% exam

**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/Isaamic/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
*The two religions cannot be Christianity and Catholic Christianity together*

**Short course B overview**
Assessed through 2 externally examined papers.

**Paper 1 - Religion & Ethics**
- Choice of 7 religions (must be different to paper 2)

Assessment 50 mins 50% exam

**Paper 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict**
- Choice of 7 religions (must be different to paper 1)

Assessment 50 mins 50% exam

Beliefs
Depending on the religion - Christian Beliefs, Islamic Beliefs, Catholic Christian Beliefs, Jewish Beliefs, Buddhist Beliefs, Sikh Beliefs and Hindu Beliefs

Marriage and the Family
Peace and Conflict

Assessment 50 mins 50% exam
Assessment 50 mins 50% exam

Both papers must be taken

Subject to accreditation by Ofqual.
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.**

Short course options are available for each specification to give you even more choice. The content of the short course is a subset of the full course content, enabling co-teaching and a choice of which exam to enter your students for.

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.

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Sample page from Paper 1: Christianity

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

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

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

(c) Assess whether evil and suffering causes problems for Christian belief in God. (9)
Expert support and guidance when you need it

Our support will help you plan, teach, track/assess and develop our new Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies with confidence.

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.

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 new paid-for resources* will provide support for our new Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies specifications to help students tackle the new content and assessments with confidence, including:

- Six Specification B Student Books covering each paper for Christianity and Islam and two Teacher Resource Packs covering Christianity and Islam.
- A Revision Guide and Workbook in print and digital formats to support preparation for the external assessments.

We aim for our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies specifications to be supported by published resources produced by a range of publishers, including Pearson, and we’re working with those who are looking towards getting their resources endorsed.

*It is not necessary to buy resources, including those from Pearson, to deliver our Edexcel specification. Endorsed resources from other publishers will be available at www.edexcel.com/resources.

Reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack at:

www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsers16a
Expert support and guidance when you need it

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.

Coming soon!

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.

www.edexcel.com/gcsers16

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.

www.edexcel.com/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.

www.examwizard.co.uk

Develop

To help you plan with confidence, we’re running a range of free events in the lead-up to the new qualification going live.

Getting Ready to Teach events

Free Getting Ready to Teach events in 2016 will support you in delivering our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies specifications for first teaching from September 2016. During the event you will:

- discover more about the structure, content and assessment of the new qualifications
- explore possible teaching and delivery strategies
- take part in planning activities
- have the opportunity to network and share ideas with other teachers
- get answers to your questions about the new qualifications.

Book your FREE place online at www.edexcel.com/training.

Available spring 2016
Key facts: GCSE Religious Studies

The following changes apply to all awarding organisations’ specifications.

- Students must now study two religions from a choice of Buddhism, Christianity or Catholic Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism; previously schools could follow a single faith route.
- The subject criteria now contain more content and details of Areas of Study for each religion.
- Specific philosophical, ethical and religious themes have been introduced.
- The subject criteria have been split into two parts (A & B) to allow specifications to be designed with two different approaches
  - One allows a 75/25 split between 2 religions
  - One allows a 50/50 split between 2 religions

New Edexcel AS and A level Religious Studies for 2016

AS and A levels in Religious Studies are also changing in 2016 and, as with our Edexcel GCSEs, we have developed our qualifications with the same shared passion for exploring different religions and beliefs.

Find our draft Edexcel AS and A level specifications*, assessment materials* and the range of free support available at www.edexcel.com.alevelrs16.

*Subject to accreditation by Ofqual
Next Steps ...

Sign up to teach

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

If you’re interested in teaching our qualification, be sure to sign up to get all our specification updates and support. Sign up to teach at:

www.edexcel.com/gcsers16

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

Call us: 020 7010 2164

Email us: TeachingReligiousStudies@pearson.com

Follow us: @Edexcel

Reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack

Find out more about our new published resources and reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack at:

www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsers16a