

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 International GCSE

May–June 2022 Assessment Window

Syllabus
reference

4RS1

Religious Studies **Advance Information**

You are not permitted to take this notice into the examination.
This document is valid if downloaded from the [Pearson Qualifications website](#).

Instructions

- Please ensure that you have read this notice before the examination.

Information

- This notice covers all examined components.
- The format/structure of the assessments remains unchanged.
- This advance information details the focus of the content of the exams in 2022 assessments.
- There are no restrictions on who can use this notice.
- This notice is meant to help students to focus their revision time.
- Students and teachers can discuss the advance information.
- This document has 7 pages.

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General advice

- In addition to covering the content outlined in the advance information, students and teachers should consider how to:
 - manage their revision of parts of the specification which may be assessed in areas not covered by the advance information.
 - manage their revision of other parts of the specification which may provide knowledge that helps with understanding the areas being tested in 2022.
- For specifications with synoptic questions, topics not explicitly given in the advance information may appear, e.g. where students are asked to bring together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the specification.
- For specifications with optional papers/topics/content, students should only refer to the advance information for their intended option.

A link to the Joint Council for Qualifications guidance document on advance information can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website or [here](#).

Advance Information

Subject specific section

- For each paper, the information listed in the tables shows the major focus of the content of certain AO1 and AO2 questions.
- For the sections outlined in this notice, exam questions will sample content from the areas listed in this advance information. Note that the exam may include some or all of the content in the listed topics.
- Sections not outlined in this advance information will follow the normal examination rules.
- The information is presented in specification order and not in question order.
- Students will be credited for using any relevant knowledge from any other topic areas when answering questions. In the questions assessing the sections outlined in this advance information, there is no expectation of knowledge beyond that identified in order to achieve full marks.

PAPER 1: Beliefs and Values

The content requirements for two of the four sections on the paper will be provided, delineated by question number.

Section 1: The Universe, Creation and the Place of Human Beings**Question 1**

Topic	Sub-topic
1.1 The Universe and the Place of Human Beings	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about the origin of the universe and the place of human beings in it; religious beliefs/teachings about its purpose.
1.3 Selfishness, Greed, Ignorance and Sin	(Differing) views about human responsibility for hatred, injustice, violence and war in the world; and whether hatred, injustice, violence and war are inevitable features of a world inhabited by human beings.
1.4 Free Will, Determinism and Predestination	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about free will, determinism and predestination. Whether determinism means that human beings' choices and actions cannot be free; the extent to which human beings should be held responsible (and punished) for their actions.
1.5 Ultimate Reality	Religious beliefs/teachings about the nature and character of God. Monotheism and polytheism, and reasons why people believe in one God or many gods.

Question 2

Topic	Sub-topic
1.1 The Universe and the Place of Human Beings	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about the origin of the universe and the place of human beings in it; religious beliefs/teachings about its purpose.
1.2 Human Nature and the Human Condition	(Differing) views about immortality and the soul; why some people believe that human beings have a soul, while others do not; and why some people believe that the real world is nothing more than the physical world (physicalism).
1.6 Belief, Uncertainty and Unbelief	Arguments from the existence of the world to God as the only possible explanation of its existence; arguments from the appearance of design in the world to God as designer; the search for meaning and purpose in life; the appeal to religious authority; and such experiences as conversion.
1.7 The Problem of Evil and Suffering	Attempts by religious people to explain why God created a world containing suffering and/or allows it to continue; non-religious explanations of the causes and existence of evil and suffering in the world; and religious and non-religious responses to the reality of evil and suffering, and views on how to cope with them.

Section 2: Life and Death**Question 3**

Topic	Sub-topic
2.1 Death and Life After Death	Religious beliefs/teachings about the nature of life after death; linear and cyclical views of human existence; immortality of the soul; resurrection; rebirth; judgement; and the law of cause and effect in relation to life after death.
2.3 Sanctity of Life, Abortion and Euthanasia	The nature of abortion and euthanasia; current legal arrangements (in any named country) that permit or prohibit them; differing attitudes to abortion and euthanasia among religious and non-religious people and within particular religious traditions.
2.5 Marriage and Partnership	(Differing) religious and non-religious attitudes towards sex outside marriage (pre-marital sex, promiscuity and adultery) and to couples living together, including in long-term relationships, without being married (cohabitation).
2.8 Childlessness and Celibacy	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about, and the (differing) attitudes of religious and non-religious people to: childlessness; decisions not to have children (and the reasons for such decisions).

Question 4

Topic	Sub-topic
2.2 The Meaning and Purpose of Life	Non-religious ideas about the meaning and purpose of life. The view that questions about the meaning and purpose of life get in the way of living it to the full and making the world a better place.
2.5 Marriage and Partnership	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about, and the (differing) attitudes of religious and non-religious people to: marriage and its purposes; the importance and role of marriage in religious communities and society.
2.6 Divorce and Remarriage	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about, and the (differing) attitudes of religious and non-religious people to, divorce and remarriage.
2.7 Family Structures and Responsibilities	Religious and non-religious beliefs/teachings about, and the (differing) attitudes of religious and non-religious people to: family life and its importance; responsibilities within the family, including those between different generations; the rights of children; the changing nature of family life (nuclear, extended, single-parent and reconstituted families).

PAPER 2: The Religious Community

Topic	Sub-topic
Buddhism: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	The teaching of the Dhammapada, the importance of the sangha, the life of the Buddha
Christianity: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	The authority of the Bible, the nature of authority within Christian denominations, attitudes to ordained ministry
Hinduism: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	The importance of pujaris, the significance of Rama, the influence of Ramanuja
Islam: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	The importance of the Qur'an, the principles of ijma and qiyya, the significance of the Rightly Guided-Caliphs
Judaism: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	The use and significance of the Mishnah, the importance of rabbis, the importance of Abraham
Sikhism: Section 1 Origins and their impact on the community	Sources of guidance for Sikhs other than the Guru Granth Sahib, the significance of religious leaders, the significance of the human Gurus

Topic	Sub-topic
Buddhism: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration of Nirvana Day, the significance of pilgrimage to Kapilvastu and Sarnath
Christianity: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration of Christmas, pilgrimage to Bethlehem and to places other than Jerusalem and Bethlehem
Hinduism: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration of Durga Puja, the importance of the Ganges, the importance of pilgrimage in Hinduism
Islam: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration of Eid ul-Adha and its meaning and importance, the significance of Hajj, the significance of Makkah for Muslims
Judaism: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration of Pesach, the significance of Jerusalem, the significance of Masada
Sikhism: Section 2 Celebration and Pilgrimage	The celebration gurburbs, the significance of Amritsar, the practice of pilgrimage in Sikhism

END OF ADVANCE INFORMATION