



Religious Studies

Overview

Revised GCE Religious Studies Overview

AS – Other Aspects of Human Experience

In this revised specification the A02 questions in Section B of the examination paper will deal with ‘other aspects of human experience’. The topics for the ‘other aspects of human experience’ are listed at the end of each of the eight units in the specification. It is important to note that these ‘other aspects of human experience’ topics listed may be relevant to and reflect a number of areas of the content listed across the body of the unit.

A2 - Synoptic Assessment

In this revised specification, the Synoptic Assessment is different but continues to be an important aspect of A level study. It encourages students to develop their understanding of the subject as a whole.

The Synoptic Assessment now has a body of content at the end of each A2 unit which students are required to study. This specified content permits flexibility and choice in the way this material is studied. Each synoptic question will assess the students ability to examine the set theme in relation to their different units of study and then to other aspects of human experience.

The most notable differences about the new Synoptic Assessment are:

- There is a prescribed body of content to be studied;
- The A01 task will be open-ended and will require the student to investigate the statement supported by reference to different units of study;
- The focus of the response is now the exploration of the task and not an exhaustive detailing of links between different units of study;
- The primary focus is now an investigation and discussion of issues raised by the particular question;
- Students are still required to make reference to different units of study. However, what is important is that they are meaningful and clearly supporting the analysis offered. The quality of the response is more important than the number of links;
- The A01 task in any one year will be rooted in the three strands of the prescribed content;
- Links between units of study can be made across the whole specification including AS;
- The new A01 is now worth 20/50 marks; and
- The A02 task remains similar to that in the legacy specification but the mark weighting has now changed to 30/50 marks.