

Religious Studies

GCE Student Guide

Studying GCE Religious Studies will help you develop your understanding of religious beliefs, practices and values. It will give you the opportunity to develop your insight into various areas of study in religion and relate these to a local cultural and religious environment and to the wider world.

You may choose to study the AS course as a final qualification or as 40 percent of a full A-level qualification. Continuing with an A2 course makes up the further 60 percent needed to complete the full A-level award.

Why study Religious Studies?

GCE Religious Studies offers an academic approach to the study of religion, ethics and philosophy. It is open to all students of any religious persuasion or none.

Religion plays an important role in many different cultures. Religious Studies enables you to develop an insight and interest in areas of knowledge, belief and thought central to an understanding of the modern world.

As a Religious Studies student, you will discuss, debate and critically evaluate contemporary religious ideas. You will also investigate and speculate about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life.

This qualification is for students who are interested in and enthusiastic about religion and its relation to the local community and wider world. It will appeal to anyone who enjoyed studying English, sciences, humanities or languages at GCSE.

Religious Studies helps to equip you with many of the skills needed in further and higher education and the workplace. You will develop critical evaluation skills and the ability to construct logical and convincing arguments.



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What will I study?

For both AS level and A2

Students complete **two** units from the following areas of study:

1. Textual Studies
2. Systematic Study of One Religion
3. Religion and Ethics
4. Philosophy of Religion

Students must study **two** of these units at AS level and a further two units at A2 level. Students **must not** choose two units from the same area of study.

At A2, students can study the corresponding units from AS level or they can choose different units.

Unit	Areas of Study
AS	Textual Studies:
	Unit AS 1: An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke
	Unit AS 2: An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles
	Unit AS 3: An Introduction to Themes in the Old Testament
	Systematic Study of One Religion:
	Unit AS 4: The Origins and Development of the Early Christian Church to AD 325
	Unit AS 5: The Celtic Church in Ireland in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Centuries
	Unit AS 6: An introduction to Islam
Religion and Ethics:	
Unit AS 7: Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Issues in Medical Ethics	
Philosophy of Religion:	
Unit AS 8: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion	
A2	Textual Studies:
	Unit A2 1: Themes in the Synoptic Gospels
	Unit A2 2: Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul
	Unit A2 3: Themes in the Old Testament
	Systematic Study of One Religion:
	Unit A2 4: Themes in the Early Church and the Church Today
	Unit A2 5: Themes in the Celtic Church, Reformation and Post-Reformation Church
	Unit A2 6: Islam in a Contemporary Context
Religion and Ethics:	
Unit A2 7: Global Ethics	
Philosophy of Religion:	
Unit A2 8: Themes in the Philosophy of Religion	

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How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS	Two externally assessed written papers, 1 hour 20 minutes each	Each paper is worth: 50% of AS Both papers comprise 40% of A level
A2	Two externally assessed written papers, 2 hours each	Both papers comprise remaining 60% of A level

What can I do with a qualification in Religious Studies?

Religious Studies can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers. If you wish to continue with your study of religious studies at degree level, you will need to complete the full A-level course comprising the two units at AS together with the two at A2.

Through studying religious studies, you will learn how to critically evaluate different topics and issues, developing your skills in considering evidence and arguing a case based on the evidence.

Students of religious studies can go on to have careers in areas such as teaching, medicine, law, public service, advice work, counselling, journalism, ministry, social work, charity organisations, youth work and community work.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

