

Information for Religious Studies GCSE, AQA Route A

Exam Structure

The RS exam is divided into two papers:

Paper 1- Study of Two Religions (1h 45m)

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Practices
- Buddhist Beliefs
- Buddhist Practices

Paper 2- Thematic Studies (1h 45m)

- Theme A: Relationships and the Family
- Theme B; Religion and Life
- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Theme E: Crime and Punishment

Tips for Revision

1. Ensure that your book and folder are well-organised, with topics clearly labelled.
2. Make clear revision notes for each topic that help you to learn. Also consider using: cue cards; posters; mind-maps; and podcasts. After each lesson you could re-read your notes and consolidate your knowledge.
3. Use the VLE to access the range of revision materials and booklets provided for each topic. The section entitled 'Revision for all Topics' may be most useful
<https://vle.lionhearttrust.org.uk/course/view.php?id=167#section-11>
4. Each week you should be carrying out preparation learning tasks and/or revision beyond the classroom. Use the revision schedule given out to guide you. The topic will be set weekly on Beehive.
5. Please purchase this revision guide: *AQA Revision Guide: Religious Studies A (9-1), Christianity & Buddhism* by Marianne Fleming; Nagapriya; and Peter Smith, 2018: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-842285-3
6. If you wish to purchase copies of textbooks (either new or second hand) then examples of useful ones would include:
 - *AQA Religious Studies A Christianity* by Marianne Fleming; Peter Smith; and David Warren, 2016: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-837033-8
 - *AQA Religious Studies A Buddhism* by Kevin James; Nagapriya, 2016: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-837032-1
7. On the VLE and on AQA's website, there are lots of sample questions for each topic. Your answers to sample exam papers can be brought in for feedback from your teacher.
8. Use the excellent resources on BBC Bitesize to help you recap and to test yourself

AQA GCSE Religious Studies. Guidance on answering exam questions.

AO1 Questions.

1 Mark Questions - Multiple choice. Choose one answer

2 Mark Question – Short answer, one mark for each relevant point. Answer using bullet points

4 Mark Question : You will be asked to explain two ideas. You will answer using Point Explain x2

First Point (1/2 marks)	Second Point (3/4 marks)
This question should be answered in two short paragraphs.	
<u>Simple (a basic point)</u> explanation of a relevant and accurate influence/similarity/contrast (1mark)	<u>Simple (a basic point)</u> explanation of a relevant and accurate influence/similarity/contrast (3 marks)
<u>Detailed (developed)</u> explanation of a relevant and accurate influence /similarity/contrast (2marks)	<u>Detailed (developed)</u> explanation of a relevant and accurate influence /similarity/contrast (4 marks)

5 Mark Question: You will need to explain two beliefs and add a source of wisdom e.g. the Bible, The Buddha says, etc. You must state the source. Answer using Point Explain and Point Evidence (name the source) Explain

First point (1/2 marks)	Second point (3/4 marks)	Plus (5th mark)
Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief/teaching Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief/teaching	Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief/teaching Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief/teaching	One accurate / relevant reference to a religious teaching or writing regarded as holy / authoritative by the religion concerned

A02 Questions (12 Mark Question): You will be given a statement to discuss

Evaluate a statement by showing arguments for using evidence and evaluation, showing arguments against using evidence and evaluation, and reaching a justified conclusion.

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10-12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.	7-9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion or the argument is one-sided.	4-6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1-3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0