

# Religious Studies

– Student Guide for Advanced  
Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about life: why are we here, how should we behave and what happens to us when we die?

## Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you have studied Religious Studies or Religious Education at GCSE, but this is not essential and you will not be at a disadvantage if you have not studied this subject before. This course is available to people of any religious belief, or none; you do not have to be religious to succeed in Religious Studies.

Many other subjects would go well with Religious Studies: for example, English, History, Sociology, Geography, Psychology and Politics. Religious Studies can also be a useful complement to science subjects, particularly for those who wish to follow a career in medicine.

With a qualification in Religious Studies, you could go on to Higher Education, at college or university. The skills developed in Religious Studies could be particularly useful for careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

This subject involves a choice from 22 units, some of which are compulsory.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units, **together with** 3 A2 units.

## For AS, you will study the following modules:

### Module 2760 – Foundation for the Study of Religion

In this module you will be introduced to the two areas of study which you are going to follow in the rest of the course. You will learn some of the basic concepts and information that you will need as you progress through the course, and you will begin to develop skills in argument and analysis.

### Two of Modules 2761 – 2770

Philosophy of Religion (Modules 2761 and 2769) – a study of different ways in which people have tried to answer philosophical questions from a religious perspective

Religious Ethics (Modules 2762 and 2770) – a study of the ways in which people make moral decisions, and the influences of religious belief on morality; a study of some contemporary moral issues

Jewish Scriptures (Module 2763) – a study of some of the history and key themes of the Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament)

New Testament (Module 2764) – a study of some of the history and key concepts of either the Early Church or the Gospels.

Developments in Christian Thought (Module 2765) – a study of feminist theology and liberation theology

Eastern Religions (Module 2766) – a study of some of the key concepts of either Hinduism or Buddhism

Islam (Module 2767) – a study of some of the key concepts and sacred texts of Islam

Judaism (Module 2768) – a study of some of the key concepts and sacred texts of Judaism

These three modules, examined in 3 associated units of assessment, form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

**For A2, you will also study the following modules:**

**Two of modules 2771 – 2780**

In each of these two modules you will follow the same main areas of study as in Modules 2761 – 2770. You will learn additional information and new concepts which build on the work you have done at AS Level. You will develop further your skills in explaining and evaluating different ideas.

**One of Modules 2791 – 2795 Connections in Religious Studies**

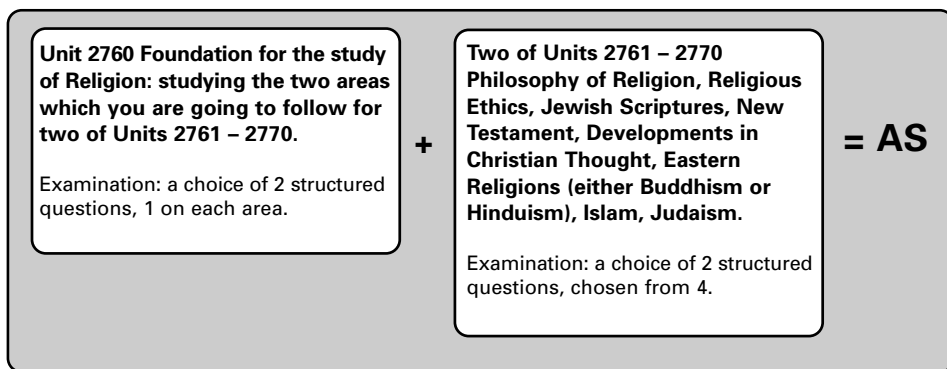
In this module you will study the links between the two areas of study which you have followed. You will be able to make comparisons between different approaches to religious issues, and will also consider how these approaches relate to other aspects of life.

These 3 modules, examined in 3 associated units of assessment, together with the 3 you have studied for AS, complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

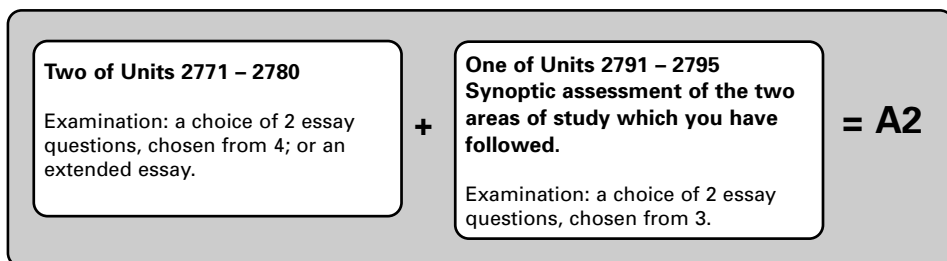
As an alternative, you might choose to follow an AS qualification in Religious Studies concentrating on Philosophy of Religion or Religious Ethics.

Modules 2771 – 2780 are examined by a written examination (Units 2771 – 2780) or by an External Essay (Units 2781 – 2790).

**The assessment structure for Religious Studies is:**



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Note: One of Units 2771 – 2780 (written examination) can be replaced by one of Units 2781 – 2790 (Extended Essay).

**The assessment structure for an AS qualification in Religious Studies, concentrating on Philosophy of Religion or Religious Ethics, is:**

