

New A Level Religious Studies

H172 and H575 replacing 3877 and 7877

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Religious Studies specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Religious Studies.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes

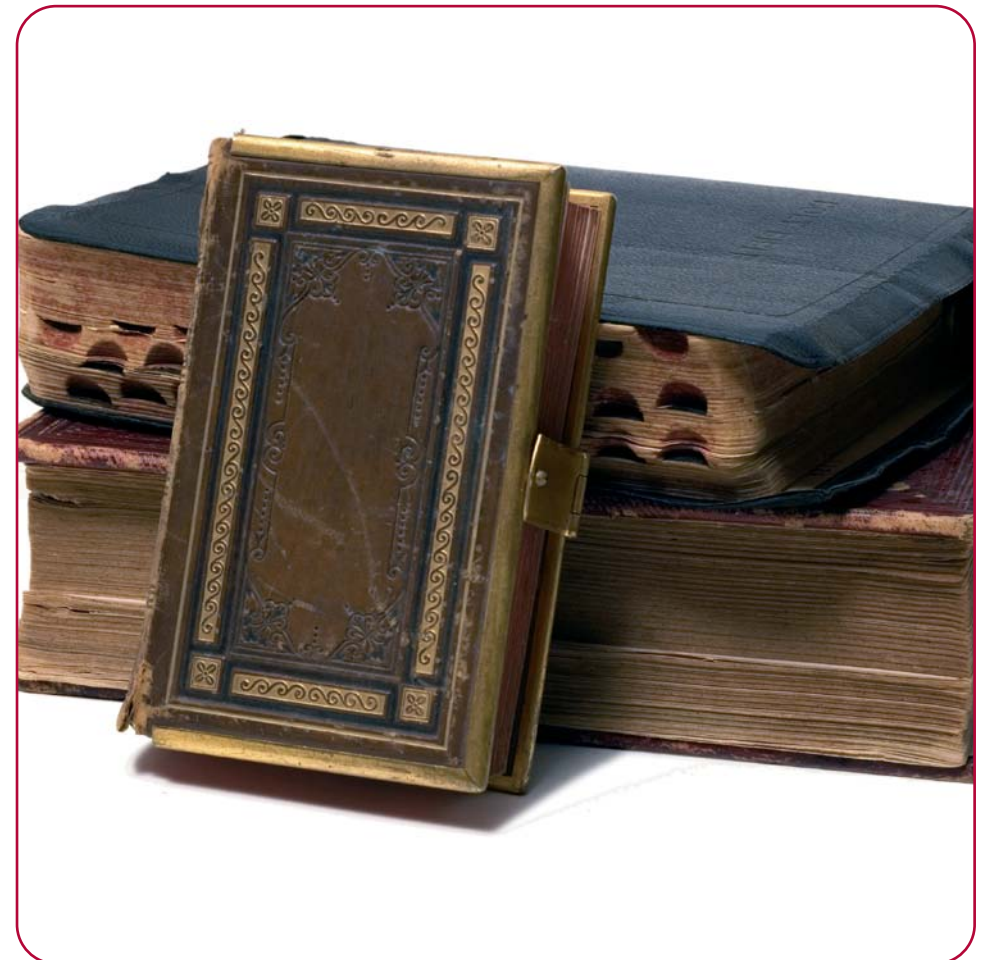
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Outline specification for first teaching September 2008

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QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE A level Religious Studies is to be reduced from six to four
- All coursework to be removed from Religious Studies
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment
- Synoptic content to be covered at A2



Mapping the changes to the A Level Religious Studies specification for first teaching September 2008

H172 and H575 replacing 3877 and 7877



Candidates must complete six units; one mandatory and two optional units at AS, one mandatory and two optional units at A2.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Foundation for the Study of Religion	2760 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit has been completely removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the unit has been moved to optional units in the new specification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA stipulation. Allows flexibility with two optional units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new specification will have detailed Specimen Assessment Materials on the examinable units.
AS Philosophy of Religion 1	2761 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God arguments. Problem of Evil. Type of assessment: Essay style questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The previous content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit: Greek influence on Philosophy of Religion, Judaeo-Christian influences on Philosophy of Religion. Argument from Religious Experience moved to A2. Miracles and Body/Soul have been moved to A2. Sociological and Psychological challenges have been removed. Religion and Science topic has been added. Choice of two questions from four (previously a choice of two from six). New unit code G571. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Religious Ethics 1	2762 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical theories and Applied Ethics Topics. Essay style questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit. Virtue Ethics has been moved to A2. Meta Ethics has been moved to A2. War & Peace has been moved to this unit from A2. Choice of two questions from four (it was a choice of two from six). New unit code G572. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Jewish Scriptures 1	2763 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form criticism. Covenant. G-d and suffering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit. Topic on Prophet Elijah has been added. New unit code G573. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS New Testament 1	2764 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The section on Passion and Resurrection narrative in Mark's Gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit: Acts of the Apostles has been removed. John's Gospel has been removed. Further details on Synoptic Gospels added. New unit code G574 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. More theological study of Gospels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.

Mapping the changes to the A Level Religious Studies specification for first teaching September 2008

H172 and H575 replacing 3877 and 7877



Candidates must complete six units; one mandatory and two optional units at AS, one mandatory and two optional units at A2.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Developments in Christian Thought 1	2765 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberation Theology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit. Foundations of Christian Theology (Aquinas, Calvin, Augustine and Cone) have been added. Feminist Theology has been moved to A2. New unit code G575. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Approach develops theological concepts further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Eastern Religions 1	2766 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<p>Buddhism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core concepts. Key Teaching, Attitudes and Practices. <p>Hinduism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core concepts. Key Teaching, Attitudes and Practices. 	<p>Buddhism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit: Origins of Buddhism. More content on the spread of Buddhism. Scriptures have been moved to A2. The arhat and bodhisattva paths have been moved from A2. <p>Hinduism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit: Origins of Hinduism. Further content added on the Aryans. New unit code G576 and G577. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Islam 1	2767 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beliefs and practices. 	<p>The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit: Background and origins of Islam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surah 96 has been added. Beliefs about God have been moved from A2. New unit code G578. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Judaism 1	2768 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beliefs and practices. 	<p>The content of the Foundation unit has been moved to this unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other existing areas have been developed in more detail. New unit code G579. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
AS Philosophy of Religion 2	2769 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These units have been completely removed and content has been distributed elsewhere. Candidates can opt to study Philosophy and Ethics in unite G571 and G572. 			
AS Religious Ethics 2	2770 Optional 33.3% (AS) 16.6% (A Level) 1hr exam				

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2 Philosophy of Religion 2	2771 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious language. Religious Experience. Life and Death. Essay based open ended questions. Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Experiences, Miracles and Body/Soul have been moved to this unit from AS. New section on the Nature of God. Greater explanation for areas of study. Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). New unit code G581. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Religious Ethics 2	2772 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free will and determinism. Conscience. Environmental ethics and sexual ethics. Essay based open ended questions Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta Ethics from AS. Virtue Ethics from AS. Business Ethics added. Greater explanation for areas of study. Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). New unit code G582. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Jewish Scriptures 2	2773 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reward and Punishment. Amos. Messianic hope. Essay based open ended questions. Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosea. Ruth. Wisdom literature and religious experience. Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). New unit code G583. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
A2 New Testament 2	2774 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synoptic Gospel themes remain largely the same. Essay based open ended questions. Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early church section has been completely removed. More development of theological themes. Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). New unit code G584. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. More theological depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Developments in Christian Thought 2	2775 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of the section Christianity in a multi-faith society remain. Elements of Black Theology remain. Essay based open ended questions Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feminist theology has been moved to this unit from AS. New section on Theology of Religions. Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). New unit code G585. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. Schemes of work will be available.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2 Eastern Religions 2	2776 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<p>Buddhism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scriptures. • Buddhist Ethics. • Religious Practice. <p>Hinduism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindu Ethics. • Samkhya system. • Reforming movements in Hinduism. • Essay based open ended questions. • Choice of two questions from four. 	<p>Buddhism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhism in the West are added. • Greater development of existing sections. • Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. • Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). <p>Hinduism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section on the Importance of scriptures has been developed further. • Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. • Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question. • New unit code G586/G597. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. • Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. • Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Islam 2	2777 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles of belief. • Muslim life. • Development of Islam. • Essay based open ended questions. • Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs about God have been moved to AS. • Existing sections have been developed further. • Section on the first four khalifahs has been added • Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. • Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). • New unit code G588. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. • Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. • Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Judaism 2	2778 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of land of Israel. • Messianic hope. • Holocaust. • Essay based open ended questions. • Choice of two questions from four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New section on Development of Judaism has been added. • Greater development of existing sections. • Synoptic content is implicit in the topics for study. • Greater use of trigger words and greater variety of question style (Stretch and Challenge). • New unit code G589. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers' feedback gained through INSET and the e-community. • Rationalisation of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes for guidance and a very detailed resource list will be sent to centres in due course. • Schemes of work will be available.
A2 Philosophy of Religion 1	2779 Optional 15% (A) 1.5hr exam				
A2 Religious Ethics 1	2780 Optional 15% (A)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These units have been completely removed and content has been distributed elsewhere. Candidates may study Philosophy of Religion and Ethics through units G581 and G582. 		

Existing specification		What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Current unit title	Unit code				
A2	Philosophy of Religion 2 2781 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Religious Ethics 2 2782 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Jewish Scriptures 2 2783 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	New Testament 2 2784 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Developments in Christian Thought 2 2785 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Eastern Religions 2 2786 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Islam 2 2787 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Judaism 2 2788 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Philosophy of Religion 1 2789 Optional 15% (A)				
A2	Religious Ethics 1 2790 Optional 15% (A)				

• Coursework has been removed from the new specification in line with QCA subject criteria

Existing specification		What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Current unit title	Unit code				
A2 Connections in Religious Studies (routes A, AX, AY)	2791 Optional 20% (A) 1.5hr exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synoptic units are now implicit in content of all A2 units. 		
A2 Connections in Religious Studies (routes C, D, J, K, P, S)	2792 Optional 20% (A) 1.5hr exam				
A2 Connections in Religious Studies (routes E, L)	2793 Optional 20% (A) 1.5hr exam				
A2 Connections in Religious Studies (routes F, M, Q, T)	2794 Optional 20% (A) 1.5hr exam				
A2 Connections in Religious Studies (B, G, H, N, R, V)	2795 Optional 20% (A) 1.5hr exam				

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Candidates must complete four units. Two units chosen from nine options at AS and two units chosen from nine options at A2.

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
	GCE Religious Studies (whole specification)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework has been completely removed to reduce the assessment burden for teachers and candidates. The new specification is more flexible, enabling candidates to study any preferred combination of units. The new specification enables the development of essay writing skills necessary for entry to Higher Education. 	
AS	Philosophy of Religion	G571 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes and topics in Philosophy of Religion dealing with ultimate issues such as God, Existence, Life and Death. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR is currently developing teachers' support, programmes of INSET and is working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. Published resources should be available by April 2008. In service training meetings will be organised prior to the commencement of the specification. Detailed Resource lists. Notes for guidance. Sample assessment material. More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation. Schemes of work to support the delivery of each unit.
AS	Religious Ethics	G572 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical themes and Applied ethical topics. 	
AS	Jewish Scriptures	G573 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed textual study incorporating a wider range of texts to provide a thorough grounding in Jewish Scriptures. 	
AS	New Testament	G574 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A theological approach to the New Testament. In depth study of highlighted New Testament themes. 	
AS	Developments in Christian Theology	G575 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of key areas in Christian Theology. A study of key theological themes in greater detail. 	
AS	Buddhism	G576 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study in key features of Buddhism. Thorough grounding in key beliefs and practices. 	

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Candidates must complete four units. Two units chosen from nine options at AS and two units chosen from nine options at A2.

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Hinduism	G577 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of key features of Hinduism. • Thorough grounding in key beliefs and practices. 	
AS	Islam	G578 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of key features of Islam. • Thorough grounding in key beliefs and practices. 	
AS	Judaism	G579 Optional 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of key features of Judaism. • Thorough grounding in key beliefs and practices. 	
A2	Philosophy of Religion	G581 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophical themes and topics addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Religious Ethics	G582 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical themes and topics addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Jewish Scriptures	G583 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scriptural themes and topics addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	New Testament	G584 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scriptural themes and topics addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Developments in Christian Thought	G585 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological themes and topics in Christianity addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	

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Candidates must complete 4 units. 2 units chosen from 9 options at AS and 2 units chosen from 9 options at A2.



	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
A2	Buddhism	G586 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes and topics in Buddhism addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Hinduism	G587 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes and topics in Hinduism addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Islam	G588 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes and topics in Islam addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	
A2	Judaism	G589 Optional 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes and topics in Judaism addressing certain key aspects of human experiences. 	