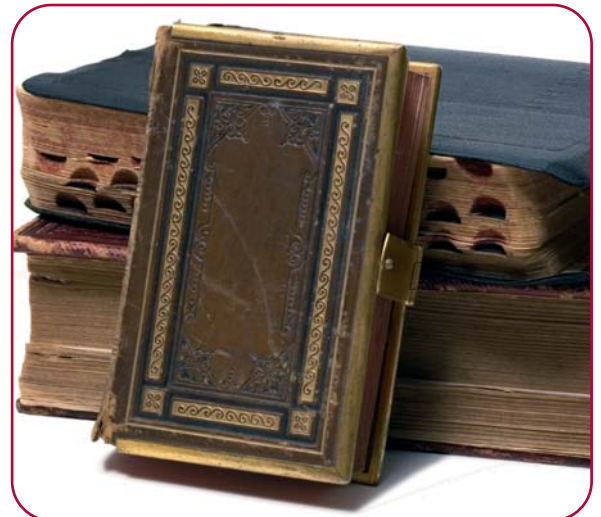




AS/A Level Religious Studies

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification covers a number of options within Religious Studies, including Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, World Religions and Textual studies. Learners are encouraged to adopt an enquiring critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- The ethos and strengths of OCR's previous Religious Studies specification have been maintained in a new four unit (two at AS and two at A2) format.
- The new specification is more flexible and incorporates a fully integrated synoptic element at A2.
- Assessment burden is eased by removing the examined coursework element.
- The new specification enables the development of essay writing skills necessary for entry to Higher Education.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
G571: Philosophy of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion • Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion • Traditional arguments for the existence of God • Challenges to religious belief 	Optional
G572: Religious Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical theories • Applied ethics topics 	Optional
G573: Jewish Scriptures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time line of scriptures • Form criticism • Topics 	Optional
G574: New Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First century Gospel setting • Themes and texts of Mark's passion narrative • The resurrection in the Synoptic Gospels 	Optional
G575: Developments in Christian Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations of Christian theology • Liberation theology 	Optional
G576: Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of Buddhism • Core concepts • Key teachings, attitudes and practices 	Optional
G577: Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of Hinduism • Core concepts • Key teachings, attitudes and practices 	Optional
G578: Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and origins of Islam • Beliefs • Practices 	Optional
G579: Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred writings • Beliefs • Practices 	Optional

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
G581: Philosophy of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious language • Experience and religion • Nature of God • Life and death • Miracle 	Optional
G582: Religious Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Ethics • Free will and determinism • Conscience • Virtue ethics • Applied ethics topics 	Optional
G583: Jewish Scriptures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reward and punishment • Amos and Hosea • Messianic hope and the ethical kingdom • Ruth • Wisdom literature and religious experience 	Optional
G584: New Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting and methodology • Themes in the New Testament 	Optional
G585: Developments in Christian Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology of religions • Feminist theology 	Optional
G586: Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts • The importance of scriptures • Religious practice • Later Buddhist developments • Ethics 	Optional
G587: Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts • The importance of scriptures • Religious practice • Later Hindu developments • Ethics 	Optional
G588: Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs • Muslim life • Developments in Islam 	Optional
G589: Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs • Developments in Judaism 	Optional

How is this qualification assessed?

All assessment is by written examination.
Examinations will be available in both January and June series.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009

A2

First examination available from January 2010

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of events run annually to support teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations. There will also be events to launch and introduce the new specification.

Publishers

OCR will be working with its publishing partner, Harcourt, to produce a dedicated text book for Philosophy and Ethics options, with other support materials available for Sacred Texts and World Religions units.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Sample Assessment Materials available for all units.
- Schemes of Work on all units.
- Teachers' notes for guidance.
- Resources list.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk where you can join the thriving A Level Religious Studies e-community.