

F I N A L

Our Religious Studies GCSEs include the following qualifications:

- Religious Studies A: World Religion(s)
- Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics



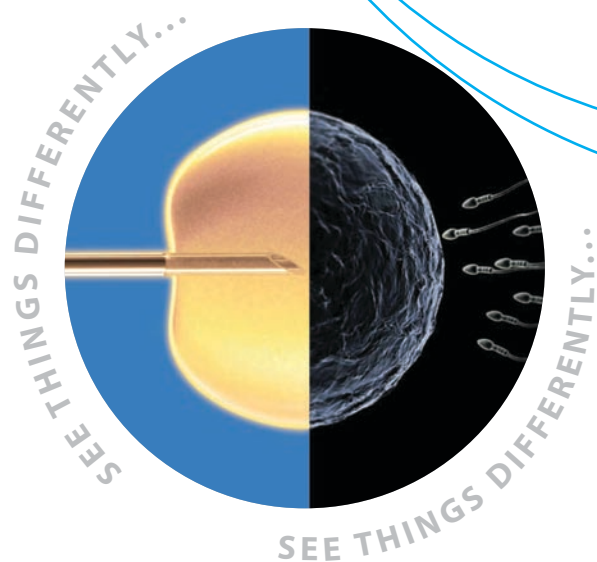
GCSE Religious Studies

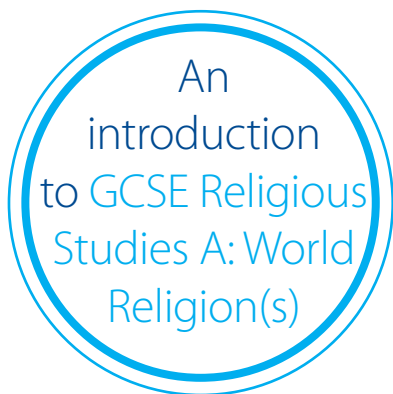
Our two specifications both have their own distinct approach to religious studies. World Religion(s) offers a comprehensive faith based approach whilst the ever popular Philosophy and Applied Ethics specification offers a modern and stimulating issues-based course.

The new
OCR GCSE
**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**

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A comprehensive faith-based approach to Religious Studies providing learners with the opportunity to focus solely on one of three major world religions throughout (Christianity, Islam or Judaism) or to study a combination of up to three different religions from a choice of six.

Some further benefits that our GCSE in Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) offers you and your learners are:

- Specification covers six religions and has been broadened out to give the option to focus on one of three major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) throughout or to study a combination of different religions including Buddhism, Sikhism and Hinduism
- Ideal progression from earlier key stage learning which can be mapped to your local SACRE syllabus – the short course offers an ideal outcome
- The opportunity for learners to study different world religion(s) in detail focusing on topics such as beliefs and practices, and sacred scriptures, building on the already popular OCR World Religions specification
- A broader coverage of more religions in the same detail, including the optional study of texts
- A full support package that has been designed to save you preparation time and to increase your confidence in teaching and marking the new GCSE Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) specification. You can find out more about our support package on page 11.

Making GCSE changes easier

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to manage the changes to our GCSE Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) specification. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the simple process of moving to OCR for Religious Studies A: World Religion(s)
- Provide a range of Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials
- Make our Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) publisher resources – tailored to the new specification – available way ahead of when you start teaching the new specification
- Keep you fully up to date, with our *Focus on 14–19* magazine, and online at www.GCSEchanges.com

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specification, support materials and schemes of work should provide everything you need to teach our Religious Studies A: World Religion(s).

Course summary for Religious Studies A: World Religion(s)

We've highlighted the course details and the assessment objectives for GCSE Religious Studies A : World Religion(s).

World Religion(s) 1

Beliefs, Special Days, Divisions and Interpretations

Unit title and description

Unit B569: Buddhism 1
 Unit B571: Christianity 1
 Unit B573: Christianity (Roman Catholic) 1
 Unit B575: Hinduism 1
 Unit B577: Islam 1
 Unit B579: Judaism 1
 Unit B581: Sikhism 1

- Core beliefs
- Special days and pilgrimage
- Major divisions and interpretations

Assessment and duration

Written examination
 1 hour

Weighting

25% full course
 50% short course

World Religion(s) 2

Worship, Community and Family, Sacred Writings

Unit B570: Buddhism 2
 Unit B572: Christianity 2
 Unit B574: Christianity (Roman Catholic) 2
 Unit B576: Hinduism 2
 Unit B578: Islam 2
 Unit B580: Judaism 2
 Unit B582: Sikhism 2

- Places and forms of worship
- Religion in the faith community and the family
- Sacred writings

Written examination
 1 hour

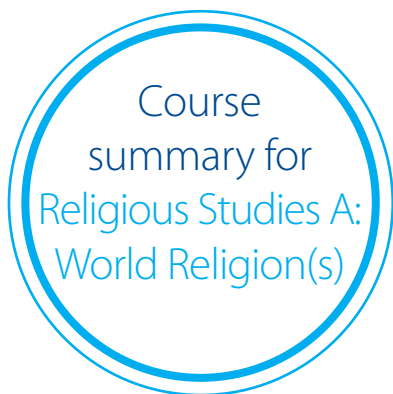
25% full course
 50% short course

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Religious Studies. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

- AO1**
- Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding.
- AO2**
- Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints.





Course
summary for
**Religious Studies A:
World Religion(s)**

To achieve the full course, learners take any four units*.
To achieve the short course, learners take any two units**.

* Candidates may not study more than 3 religions and they can not study Christianity with Christianity (Roman Catholic)

**Learners can no longer take any 2 units and they can not study Ethics (B603) and Perspectives on World Religions for the short course

Scriptures

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit B583: Christian Scriptures 1: Mark • Life of Jesus through a study of Mark	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B584: Christian Scriptures 2: Luke • Teachings of Jesus through a study of Luke	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B585: Jewish Scriptures 1: Tenakh • The nature of the Tenakh • The covenant relationship between G-d and the Israelites • The roles and the uses of the Tenakh and the covenant relationship in daily life and worship	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B586: Jewish Scriptures 2: Talmud • The nature of the Talmud • The role and the uses of the Talmud in daily life and worship	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B587: Muslim Texts 1: Qur'an • Qur'an	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B588: Muslim Texts 2: Sunnah and Hadith • Sunnah and Hadith	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course

Ethics

Unit B589: Ethics: Perspectives on World Religions Any of the following religions can be studied throughout this unit: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism. • Responsibility for the planet • War, peace and human rights • Prejudice and equality	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B603: Ethics: Relationships, Medical Ethics, Poverty and Wealth Any of the following religions can be studied throughout this unit: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism. • Religion and human relationships • Religion and medical ethics • Religion, poverty and wealth	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course

Short course

Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) is also available as a GCSE short course, equivalent to half a GCSE. Benefits of a short course include:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Learners can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses may be easier for your centre.
- More able learners can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.
- Short course achievement can be 'topped up' to a full course by completing a further two units. Subject to restrictions.

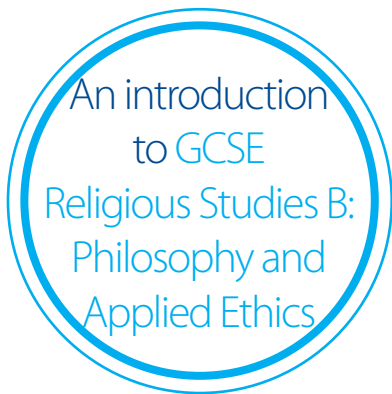
www.ocr.org.uk/religiousstudiesa/newgcse



What changes, and what stays the same?

While we've made some important changes and improved our GCSEs, we haven't changed everything. Here you can see which aspects of GCSE Religious Studies A: World Religion(s) are changing, and which will stay the same.

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a unitised approach to content. • Learners study four units for a full course, and two units for a short course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of topics to the World Religion(s) units remains the same.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity through a study of either Luke or Mark has been divided into two units. • There is an option to study two gospels instead of one. • Two optional units on Jewish texts have been added. • Two optional units on Muslim texts have been added. • Content has been revised and updated to reflect the faith-specific language. • Christian Perspectives unit is now called Ethics and can be studied from the perspective of other religions. • Instead of studying Christian Perspectives candidates now have a choice of 2 units; 1 on Ethics and 1 on Perspectives on World Religions. Candidates may study one or both of these units for the full course but only one for the short course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main topics for study within the World Religion(s) units remain the same. Some language and key areas have been revised to ensure that they are still up to date and relevant. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core beliefs • Special days and pilgrimages • Major divisions and interpretations • Places and forms of worship • Religion in the faith community and family • Sacred writings. • The opportunity to study Christian scriptures remains.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no coursework/controlled assessment. • All examinations are 1 hour. • There are two assessment objectives instead of three. • The allocation of marks to questions has changed to reflect the 50/50 weighting of the assessment objectives. • The full course is now four examination papers instead of two or three. • Learners will be asked to complete two questions from a choice of three. • Unit B603 is available for assessment in January and June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question pattern and structure remain the same. • The part E question includes a prompt. • The overall examination time remains the same. • Learners will be required to answer the same number of questions.



This specification offers a great way of engaging learners in a modern and stimulating issue-based course which is accessible to all learners regardless of their faith or background.

Our GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics offers you and your learners:

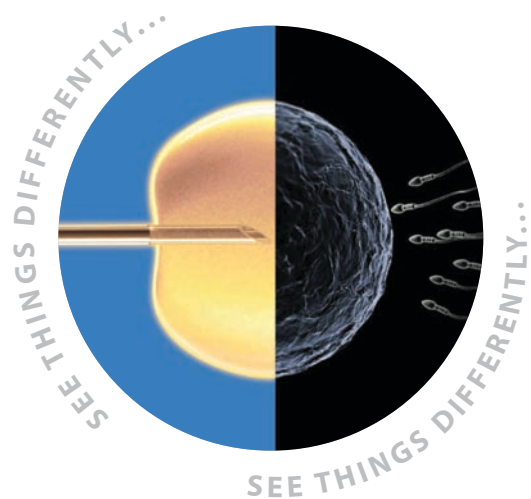
- The opportunity to study topics in relation to the religions of their choice from a range of six, including; Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism
- Ideal progression from earlier key stage learning which can be mapped to your local SACRE syllabus – the short course offers an ideal outcome
- Choice from a variety of popular and now extended topics which have been designed in consultation with teachers and include areas such as medical ethics and religion in the media
- A flexible and modular issue-based approach
- A full support package that has been designed to save you preparation time and to increase your confidence in teaching and marking the new GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics specification. You can find out more about our support package on page 11.

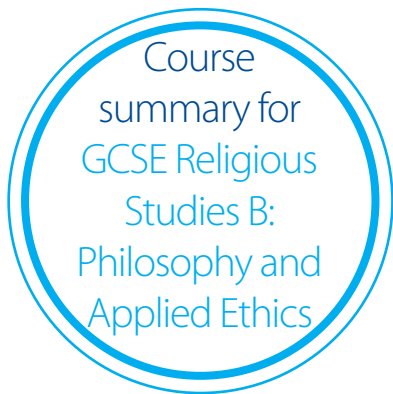
Making GCSE changes easier

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to manage the changes to our GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics specification. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the simple process of moving to OCR for teaching Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics
- Provide a range of Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials
- Make our Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics publisher resources – tailored to the new specification – available way ahead of when you first start teaching the new specification
- Keep you fully up to date, with our Focus on 14–19 magazine, and online at www.GCSEchanges.com

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specification, support materials and schemes of work should provide everything you need to teach our GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics.





We've highlighted the course details and the assessment objectives for GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics.

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
Unit B601: Philosophy 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief about deity • Religious and spiritual experience • The end of life 	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B602: Philosophy 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good and evil • Religion, reason and revelation • Religion and science 	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B603: Ethics 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and human relationships • Religion and medical ethics • Religion, poverty and wealth 	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B604: Ethics 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion, peace and justice • Religion and equality • Religion and the media 	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course

Short course

Religious Studies B is also available as a GCSE short course, equivalent to half a GCSE. Benefits of a short course include:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Learners can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able learners can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.
- Short course achievement can be 'topped up' to a full course by completing the remaining two units.
- Short course in Philosophy and Applied Ethics can be studied using a mix of Philosophy and Ethics topics or alternatively by focusing on either Philosophy or Ethics.

What changes, and what stays the same?

While we've made some important changes and improved our GCSEs, we haven't changed everything. Here you can see which aspects of GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics are changing, and which will stay the same.

What changes?

Structure

- For a full course learners study four units and those completing over two years can sit examinations over two summer sessions and a January session if they wish.
- Short course learners study two units and those completing in one year can sit examinations in January and June.
- Learners completing a short course can top up their learning with the two remaining units to achieve a full course.

Content

- Two new faiths have been added (Buddhism and Sikhism), so that learners can choose from a possible six faiths.
- Two new topics have been added to the choice of ten previously available; the new topics are:
 - Religion, reason and revelation
 - Religion and the media.
- The addition of the new topics means that learners can choose four topics from six for a short course in pure Philosophy or pure Ethics and have a choice of eight topics from twelve for a full course.
- The nature of God unit is now called The nature of deity.

Assessment

- There is no coursework/controlled assessment.
- All examinations are 1 hour.
- There are two assessment objectives instead of three.
- The allocation of marks to questions has changed to reflect the 50/50 weighting of the assessment objectives.
- The full course is now four examination papers instead of two.
- The short course is now two examination papers instead of one.
- Learners will be asked to complete two questions from a choice of three.
- Unit B603 is available for assessment in January and June.

What stays the same?

- The approach remains topic based.
- The distinction between the Philosophy content and the Ethics content is maintained.
- An equal number of topics (six) are available on Philosophy and Applied Ethics.

- The ten topics on the current specification remain and have been updated where necessary:
 - The nature of deity (formerly The nature of God)
 - Religious experience (formerly The nature of belief)
 - The end of life (formerly Death and the afterlife)
 - Good and evil
 - Religion and science
 - Religion and human relationships
 - Religion and medical ethics
 - Religion, poverty and wealth
 - Religion, peace and justice
 - Religion and equality.

- Total examination time remains the same.
- The look and feel of the examination questions will be familiar.
- There will be one examination question on each topic in the specification and learners will continue to have a choice as to which questions they answer.
- Each examination question will be set in the context of each of the six faiths covered in the specification.
- Learners will be required to answer the same number of questions.
- The part E question includes a prompt.



Flexible assessment

Assessment for the new GCSEs in Religious Studies has been organised into units, which can be taken at the end of the course in typical linear fashion, or used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This means you can have the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre, and your learners. A unitised structure also gives you the flexibility to teach short and full courses at the same time.

Flexible assessment means:

- You have a choice of learning approach – linear or unitised.
- You can now schedule assessments for times during the course when learners' understanding is at its best – giving them a better chance of success.
- Learners can re-sit a unit, rather than repeat the entire assessment.
- Learners can receive ongoing feedback, which many find motivating as it helps them identify their own learning needs and achieve more.
- Learners find it easier to stay on track with their studies and manage their time more effectively with a unitised approach.
- There's less pressure on your learners – the 'all or nothing' approach to assessment has been removed.
- Exam stress is reduced – assessments are spread out, instead of grouped together in a short, intense examination period at the end of the course.
- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare learners for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place:

- A minimum of 40% of the assessment must take place at the end of the course.
- Only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed. The better result then counts towards the qualification.



Support for GCSE Religious Studies teachers teachers

We offer a range of Religious Studies support materials, developed through extensive research and consultation with teachers. They're designed to save you time while you're preparing for the new specifications, and to support you while teaching them.

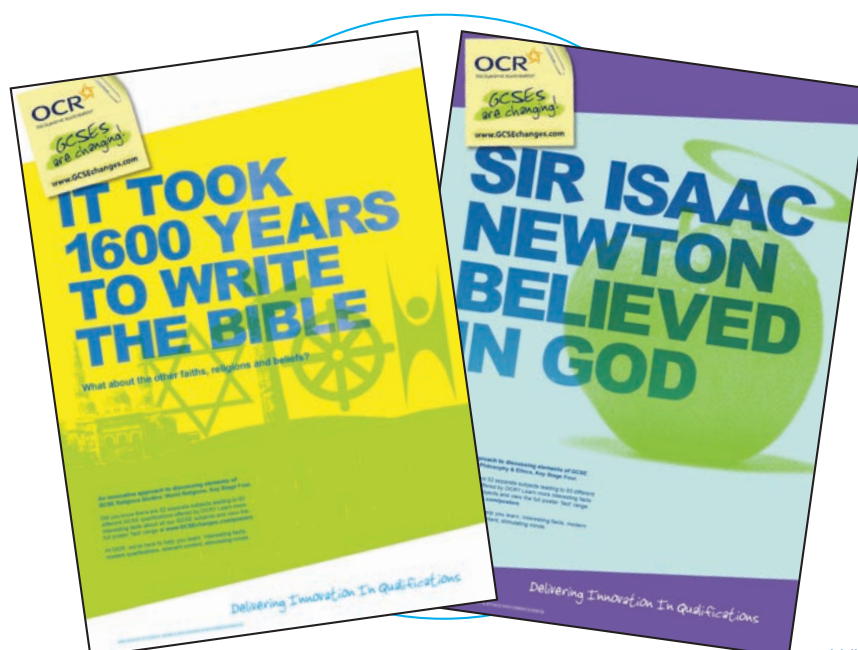
Our Religious Studies support materials and events include:

- **FREE** INSET training sessions
- Schemes of work that you can customise
- Endorsed publisher partner resources
- Access to teacher and examiner networks, both online and in print
- Lesson plans
- An extensive past-papers service
- Posters and card visuals
- Teacher planner.

Our online resources include:

- e-communities – online networks of subject specialists, for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- 'Interchange' – a completely secure, free website that helps you and your exams officer with administrative tasks at examination time
- Past examination papers
- Mark schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for you to register for updates.

For more information on our support, visit www.ocr.org.uk



INSET Training

Our **FREE** Religious Studies *Get Ready* and *Get Started* events give you a taste of the new specifications direct from the experts. For details of the courses and dates near you and to book your **FREE** place, visit www.ocr.org.uk/training

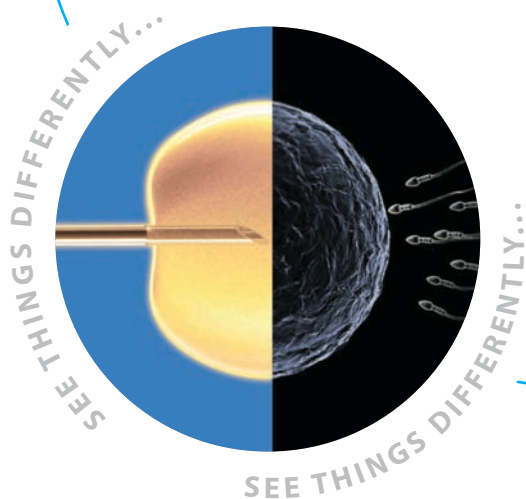
Get Ready – introducing the new specification

This course will help you find out more about the new Religious Studies specifications, whether you are a new or an experienced teacher. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current specifications.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, with refreshments and a light buffet. You'll receive a selection of course materials and an overview of our new specification for GCSE Religious Studies

The session includes:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between the old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from us
- A summary of the benefits of choosing our new GCSE Religious Studies specifications.



INSET Training

Get Started –

towards successful delivery of the new specification

This course will help you, whether you are a new or an experienced teacher or a centre assessor who will be teaching these Religious Studies specifications.

It's a full-day course which will provide essential information, guidance and practical support for newly qualified teachers or teachers new to OCR GCSE Religious Studies.

It will:

- Explain the requirements of the specifications
- Review the assessment criteria and their application
- Explain the requirements of the assessment process
- Advise and explanation of "Levels of response marking" and assessment objective weighting
- Offer advice on preparing learners for the external assessment
- Explain the administrative procedures.





Publisher support

We endorse a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering our qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's 'Official Publishing Partner' or 'Approved publication' logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve one of our qualifications. Any resource lists that are produced by us will include a range of appropriate texts.

We're working with publisher partner Heinemann to provide further resources to support teachers of the new specifications.



Resource	Format	ISBN No.
OCR GCSE Religious Studies A: World Religion(s)	Evaluation pack	978 0 435501 37 2
OCR GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics	Evaluation pack	978 0 435501 54 9



Why choose OCR?

Who is OCR?

We're one of the UK's leading Awarding Bodies, developing up-to-date GCSE qualifications for the 21st century.

Why teach OCR specifications?

At OCR, we believe in developing specifications that help you bring the subject to life, so learners are more likely to get involved and achieve more. And because we listen to schools and colleges that teach our specifications, we can improve and update qualifications continually, ensuring that you and your learners get as much as possible from the qualification.

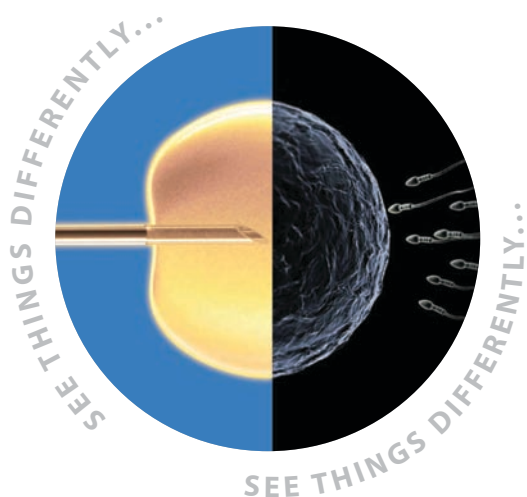
You'll receive full support when teaching our qualifications. We're offering more free training than ever before at venues near you – plus adaptable schemes of work that you can download, and lesson plans drawn up by teachers who teach the specifications.

You'll also have access to cluster support networks, where there are plenty of opportunities to give feedback and share your thoughts with other teachers. Please see page 11 for more information.

Other qualifications

You may be interested to know about some of our other Religious Studies-related qualifications:

- GCSE Citizenship
- A Level Religious Studies



www.ocr.org.uk
OCR customer contact centre

Vocational qualifications

Telephone: 024 76 851509
Facsimile: 024 76 851633
Email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

General Qualifications

Telephone: 01223 553998
Facsimile: 01223 552627
Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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