

Resources Handbook

GCSE Religious Studies C (Religion and Belief in Today's World)

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies C: J622/J122

Unit B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Religious Studies C specification for teaching from September 2009.

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Resources

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIFICATION C : RELIGION AND BELIEF IN TODAY'S WORLD Resources for Teaching

Unit B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World

The nature of the specification means that some materials may be useful for more than one section of the specification and in some cases other units for which the sources could be useful have also been noted.

ON THE WEB

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.chinatoday.com/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Site describes itself as 'a China information base' and has a comprehensive menu of topics including 'culture and tradition', 'law and justice' and 'education and schools'.</p> <p>Particularly interesting for its links to official sources in, for example, the 'Education and Schools' section; some links may not have an English Translation option however.</p>
http://www.china.org.cn/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>A news site, divided into sections for ease of reference. Most of the stories come from official Chinese news agencies which could provide interesting opportunities for comparison with other sources.</p> <p>Section on 'living in China' may be particularly useful.</p>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/china	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about China as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The 'Places in China' link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to China from the BBC.</p>
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, 'transnational' issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world. Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Primarily a news site, but divided into sections such as 'world' 'sport' and 'Bizchina' for ease of reference. The 'Opinion' section is particularly useful for exploring attitudes within and about China on issues such as Human Rights.</p>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – China</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of Chinas history, society, government etc. As with all 'wiki' sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, Chinese culture.</p>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.india.com/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – India</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Self described as 'India's Homepage' site includes news links, and sports and entertainment information. There is lots here but information may need sifting to find relevant pieces.</p>
http://india.gov.in/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – India</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Indian government site, includes links to government policies and departments and feeds in government press-releases. There is also a section (intended for Indian Citizens) offering information on health, education, law and order etc.</p> <p>The 'Know India' section gives a useful overview of how the government views the country.</p>
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/india	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – India</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about India as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The 'Places in India' link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to India from the BBC.</p>
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – India</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, 'transnational' issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world.</p> <p>Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – India</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of India's history, society, government etc. As with all 'wiki' sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, Indian culture.</p>
http://www.turkishculture.org/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – Turkey</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>A collection of articles on different aspects of Turkish culture, some of which will be more relevant to the specification than others.</p>
http://www.enjoyturkey.com/info/culture/Life_Style.htm	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – Turkey</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Information relating to life in modern Turkey, this is an offshoot of a tourism site and so some of the information may be brief. However it includes sections on women and women's rights, the family and divorce. There are also links to other sections (listed rather confusingly as 'headlines') including cultural traditions and 'People and Mentality'.</p>
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – Turkey</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about Turkey as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The 'Places in Turkey' link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to Turkey from the BBC.</p>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – Turkey</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, ‘transnational’ issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world.</p> <p>Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – Turkey</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of Turkey’s history, society, government etc. As with all ‘wiki’ sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, Turkish culture</p>
http://www.frenchentree.com/france-la-belle-vie/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – France</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Intended as a guide for people looking to move to France this site has some useful information about French lifestyle, although you have to look for it. The ‘Societe Francaise’ link and the ‘real lives’ are likely to be of most use.</p>
http://www.francetoday.com/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – France</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Magazine site about French living, the sections on ‘Life and Style’ and ‘Politics’ are likely to contain the most relevant information.</p>

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – France</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of France’s history, society, government etc. As with all ‘wiki’ sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, French culture</p>
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fr.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – France</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, ‘transnational’ issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world. Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/france	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – France</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about France as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The ‘Places in France’ link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to France from the BBC.</p>
http://www.usatoday.com/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>News site giving new and breaking news from across the United States.</p>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.nriol.com/welcome2america/life-style-in-usa.asp	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Part of a site about living in the US this page give Information relating to lifestyle in the USA. It includes sections on marriage and family, diet and celebrations. There are also links to other sections where there may be more relevant information.</p>
http://www.adherents.com/rel_USA.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification</p>	<p>Adherents.com is a site providing geographical and statistical information about religions around the world; it may be useful for many areas of the specification. This address is for the breakdown of religious groups within the USA.</p>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of the history, society, government etc of the USA. As with all 'wiki' sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, lifestyle in the USA.</p>
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, 'transnational' issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world. Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>

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http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – USA</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about the USA as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The 'Places in the USA' link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to the USA from the BBC.</p>
http://www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk/htmlsite/seif_10.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>This site is intended to prepare immigrants for the Citizenship test. The questions and topics on the test can provide a useful discussion focus for students and also give a clear picture of how the Government wishes people to view life in the UK</p>
http://www.lifeintheuk.org/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>This site provides study materials for the test mentioned above and as such is a good source of information on the structure of UK society, the role of the law etc.</p>
http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/default.stm	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>News site giving new and breaking news from across the UK.</p>

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>An overview of the history, society, government etc of the UK. As with all 'wiki' sites it is member edited so should not be used as a lone source but it is more accessible than some sites for students and could be used as a source for introductory reading on, for example, lifestyle in the UK.</p>
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>Not easy reading but a useful source of factual and statistical material; includes sections on the government, 'transnational' issues, and the economy. There are links to definitions for technical terms and in some categories comparison of statistics with the wider world.</p> <p>Not really a site for students unless you are having an information hunt style activity.</p>
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/england	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of religion in society – UK</p> <p>May also have relevant information for other sections of the specification.</p>	<p>More general information about the UK as a travel destination but with some useful facts and figures. The 'Places in England' link takes you to an alphabetical list where you can get information about specific sites. It also links to news headlines relating to the UK from the BBC.</p>

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http://www.humanism.org.uk/home http://www.galha.org/ http://nireland.humanist.org.uk/ http://www.atheistbus.org.uk/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Influences of humanism and secularisation Decline/persistence/resurgence of religion Importance of morality</p> <p>B612: Religion, Politics and Culture in Britain Religion and Modern Britain</p> <p>B613: The Individual Seeking the Truth</p> <p>B614: Community Cohesion and the Individual Universal values</p>	<p><i>Humanism as potentially both a religious and secular philosophy is important in all sections of the specification as it is a growing element of modern beliefs.</i></p> <p><i>Some specific humanist web-sites are given and links can be found from these to other humanist groups and organisations.</i></p> <p><i>It is also worth periodically searching news sites for articles on humanism and also atheism. NB: students need to be aware that these are not necessarily the same thing.</i></p>
http://www.americanhumanist.org/humanism/ http://www.atheistalliance.org/aai/index.php	<p>Human rights, equality and values</p>	<p><i>Includes links to humanist organisations worldwide</i></p>
http://www.iheu.org/ http://www.humanismforschools.org.uk/	<p>Citizenship</p>	<p><i>Includes advice for teaching humanism in schools</i></p>

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http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/home.law	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World</p> <p>B612: Religion, Politics and Culture in Britain</p>	<p><i>Gives an overview of legal processes in the UK, areas of law and current 'hot topics' within the law.</i></p>
<p>http://un.org/Overview/rights.html</p> <p>http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm</p> <p>http://www.hri.org/docs/ECHR50.html</p>	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World</p> <p>B612: Religion, Politics and Culture in Britain</p> <p>B614: Community Cohesion and the Individual</p>	<p><i>The full texts of key human rights legislation and conventions</i></p>

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http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/nationals/forced-marriage-unit/ http://www.forcedmarriage.nhs.uk/ http://www.youthinformation.com/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=90221 http://marriage.about.com/od/arrangedmarriages/Arranged_Marriages.htm http://www.thesite.org/sexandrelationships/couples/marriage/ukmarriagelaws	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World Interfaith marriage The law and freedom to practise faith</p> <p>B613: The Individual Religion and fundamentalism in society Men and Women Religion and the family</p> <p>B614: Community Cohesion and the Individual Human Rights Values</p>	<p><i>A range of searchable information on forced, arrange and child marriages, same sex marriage and laws on marriage in the UK from and legal and/or secular perspective.</i></p> <p><i>A search of news sites, humanist sites and religious sites is useful to identify specific cases and religious teachings/attitudes dealing with these issues.</i></p>
http://www.falundafa.org/eng/home.html http://www.falungong.org.uk/ http://www.fofg.org/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – Falun Gong</p>	<p><i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of Falun Gong, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i></p>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.watchtower.org/ http://www.spotlightministries.org.uk/jwmain.htm http://www.jw-media.org/	B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – Jehovah’s Witnesses	<i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of Jehovah’s Witnesses, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i>
http://www.bahai.org/ http://www.bahai.org.uk/ http://www.bic.org/	B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – Baha’l Faith	<i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of the Baha’l Faith, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i>
http://www.druidry.org/ http://www.paganfed.org/ http://www.allaboutspirituality.org/paganism.htm	B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – Order of Bards, Druids and Ovates	<i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of the Order of Bards, Druids and Ovates, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i> <i>The ‘allaboutspirituality’ link has a section comparing paganism to Christianity which may be of interest to more able students.</i>
http://www.unification.org/ http://www.apologeticsindex.org/u05.html	B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – the Unification Church	<i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of the Unification Church, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i>

Web Address	Relevance to Specification	Notes and Comments
http://www.lastchanceministries.com/Rastafarianism.htm http://www.rasta-man.co.uk/religion.htm http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/rastafari/	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements – the Rastafari Movement</p>	<p><i>Web sites giving information about the beliefs and practises of the Rastafari Movement, some provide links to news articles but searches of news sites may also be a good idea to find up to date stories.</i></p>

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Publication	Relevance to Specification	Notes and comments
<p>The Atlas of Religion <i>Joanne O'Brien and Martin Palmer</i> University of California Press</p>	<p>B611: Religion in the modern world The rise of and interest in religious movements Influences of humanism and secularisation Decline/persistence/resurgence of religion</p>	<p><i>The book consists of series of world maps, colour-coded and marked with symbols to illustrate different areas of interest relating to religion around the world. A good visual resource, suitable for teacher research and use with students.</i></p>
<p>Encyclopaedia of New Religions: New Religious Movements, sects and Alternative Spiritualities <i>Christopher H Partridge</i> Lion Publishing</p> <p>Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects and World Religions <i>George Mather, Larry A Nichols, Alvin J Schmidt</i> Zondervan Publishing House</p>	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World The rise of and interest in Religious Movements</p>	<p><i>There are many dictionary or encyclopaedia style books around which will give you a broad overview of the distinctive beliefs and practises of a vast array of religions; the content is of necessity briefer than that of a book dedicated to exploring one religion but may also be more accessible for students and so of more use in the classroom.</i></p>

Publication	Relevance to Specification	Notes and comments
<p>Maybe Yes, Maybe No: A Guide for Young Skeptics <i>Dan Barker and Brian Strassbourg</i> Prometheus Books</p> <p>Maybe Right, Maybe Wrong <i>Dan Barker</i> Prometheus Books</p> <p>Humanism, what's that? A Guide for Curious Kids <i>Helen Bennett</i> Prometheus Books</p>	<p>B611: Religion and Belief in the Modern World</p> <p>Influences of humanism and secularisation Decline/persistence/resurgence of religion Importance of morality</p>	<p><i>These are all books that explore secular philosophies of life and systems of morality.</i></p> <p><i>They are written for children and some may be pitched at a low level for able GCSE students; content can be adapted however and if children are coming to the study of secularism for the first time a simple starting point could be helpful</i></p>