

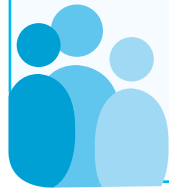
BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Lecturers in Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- Representatives from Employer Committees;
- Members of Subject Associations;
- Subject experts from Education and Library Boards; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.





Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full **GCE Religious Studies AS & A2 Specification**



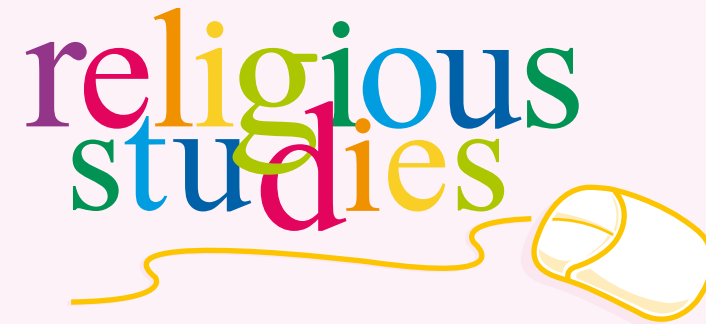
GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Religious Studies specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:

 Visit www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to view the full revised specification for your subject.

 Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full **GCE Religious Studies AS & A2 Specification**



CONTACT US NOW

Subject Officer

Donna Finlay

Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2105

Email: dfinlay@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:

Specification content
Subject-specific issues
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

Specification Support Officer

Arlene Ashfield

Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2291

Email: aashfield@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:

Requesting a meeting
Requesting further support
General subject-specific queries

Entries, Results and Certification Team

Nicola Laight

Tel: (028) 9026 1262 or ext 2392

Email: nlaight@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:

Entries
Results

Distribution Team

Bernard Trainor

Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168

Email: btrainor@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:

Requesting materials



WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at www.ccea.org.uk to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

“I’m really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We’re proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service.”

Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA

“I’m delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect.”

Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA

WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE....

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

95.5% of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research



REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



SUMMARY

- AS Units: **Choose 2 from 8 units** – 2 externally assessed written papers, 1hr 20mins each, each worth 50% of AS and 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 Units: **Choose 2 from 8 units** – 2 externally assessed written papers, 2hrs 30mins each, each worth 25% of A Level, available Summer

KEY FEATURES

- Presents a range of options to explore various areas of study in religion
- Reduces the assessment burden to 4 examinations instead of 6
- Includes synoptic assessment as part of the A2 assessment units
- Offers stretch and challenge to A2 candidates
- Provides a sound foundation for higher education and a range of interesting careers
- Contains sufficient demand in the A2 assessment to allow recognition of performance above a grade
- Aims to promote continuity, coherence and progression within the study of religion

BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- An interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion;
- An ability to relate their study to the wider world;
- Knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to the specialist study of religion;
- An enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion; and
- Their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke	AS 1	An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke	The content is now organised into five themes: Religious and political background, Introduction to the Gospel of Luke, Selective narratives in Luke's Gospel, The words (parables) of Jesus, and the deeds (miracles) of Jesus.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two
AS 2	An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles	AS 2	An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles	The content is now organised into five themes: Background to Acts; The beginnings of the Church; Growth and expansion of the Church; Paul the Apostle; and Faith, work and witness in Acts.	
AS 3	An Introduction to Old Testament Prophecy	AS 3	An Introduction to Old Testament Covenant and Prophecy	The content is now organised into five themes: The origins of early Israel, the covenant society; The reign of David; Beginnings of prophecy; Prophecy in the Northern Kingdom; and Prophecy in the Southern Kingdom.	
AS 4	The Early Christian Church	AS 4	The Christian Church in the Roman Empire: Beginnings, Expansion and External Pressure	The content is now organised into five themes: Expansion of Christianity, Church government, Persecution, Constantine, and Early Christian thought.	
AS 5	The Origin and Development of the Celtic Church	AS 5	The Origins of the Celtic Church in Ireland and the Beginnings of its Missionary Outreach	The content is now organised into five themes: Background to the mission of Patrick, The work of Patrick, The beginnings of monasticism in Ireland, The Penitentials, and Missionary outreach in Britain.	
AS 6	Religious Ethics: Foundations and Principles	AS 6	Religious Ethics: Foundations, Principles and Practice	The content is now organised into five themes: Foundations and Christian ethics, Ethical theories, Bio-ethics; Sexual ethics, and Life and death issues.	
AS 7	Issues of Religious Belief in the Modern World	AS 7	An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion	The content is now organised into five themes: The existence of God, The existence of evil, Miracles; Religious experience, and The afterlife.	
AS 8	An Introduction to the Study of Islam	AS 8	An Introduction to the Study of Islam	The content has been organised into five themes: Historical background, Life and prophetic career of Muhammad, Book of the Qur'an, Creeds and beliefs, and Worship and festivals.	
AS9	Religion and Human Experience			We have deleted this unit. Candidates must now reflect on the relationship between each AS unit and other aspects of human experience in each AS examination.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two
A2 1	The Theology of the Gospel of Luke	A2 1	The Theology of the Gospel of Luke	The content is now organised into five themes: The function and role of Biblical criticism, Lukan Christology, Religious themes, The theological significance of the words and deeds of Jesus, and Interpreting Luke.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three units be reduced to two
A2 2	Selected New Testament Writings: A Study of Acts, Galatians and 1 Corinthians	A2 2	A Study of Acts, Galatians and 1 Corinthians	The content is now organised into five themes: Paul in captivity, The theology of Acts, Paul's letter to the Galatians, Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians, and Paul in Acts and Letters.	
A2 3	A Study of Selected Old Testament Prophets	A2 3	The Covenant Community: Prophecy and Renewal	The content is now organised into five themes: The Prophet Jeremiah, The Prophet Ezekiel, Deutero-Isaiah, The work of the Chronicler, and Covenant and prophecy.	
A2 4	The Development of the Christian Church in the Roman Empire to 325 AD	A2 4	The Continued Development of the Christian Church in the Roman Empire to AD 325	The content is now organised into five themes: Church life and worship, Heresy and schism, Defining the faith, Christian writers, and Council of Nicaea.	
A2 5	The Celtic Church and its Missionary Outreach in the 5th, 6th and 7th Centuries	A2 5	A Study of the Development and Impact of the Celtic Church in the 5th, 6th and 7th Centuries	The content is now organised into five themes: The historical Patrick, Development of Celtic monasticism, Celtic hagiography, Missionary outreach in Europe, and Issues of controversy.	
A2 6	A Study of Ethics and Contemporary Issues	A2 6	Ethics and Society	The content is now organised into five themes: Ethical decision making, Human Rights, Environmental ethics, War and peace, and Ethics of justice and punishment	
A2 7	Issues of Religious Belief: Competing Claims	A2 7	Religious Belief and Competing Claims	The content is now organised into five themes: Religion and science, Religion and psychology, Religion and competing ideologies, Religion and morality, and Relationships between religions.	
A2 8	Islam: A Study of History, Faith and Worship	A2 8	Islam: Law, Tradition and Practice	The content is now organised into five themes: Teachings of the Qur'an (with reference to relevant Surahs), Sharia; Articles of faith, Rites of passage, and Islam in history.	
A2 9	Exploring Connections			We have deleted the A2 9 unit. We will now assess the synoptic element in Section B of each examination paper and will pre-release a different theme for each A2 unit of study.	

COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named overleaf if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed overleaf.

LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes

SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE Religious Studies specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to www.ccea.org.uk and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to www.ccea.org.uk to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

