

AS

At AS, this Specification offers an academic approach to the study of religion and is accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none. A wide choice of topics is offered for study including ethics, philosophy, the world religions, aspects of Christianity, religion and art, and religion and contemporary society. The Specification is designed to be flexible and to allow teachers and candidates to either focus on one area of Religious Studies, or provide a broader study of religion through selection of a variety of topics.

A2

At A2, the specification enables candidates to study in greater depth aspects of one or more religion(s), including textual, theological, historical, ethical, phenomenological and philosophical perspectives.

Unit 1

Written Paper, 1 hour 15 minutes

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks

90 marks

Two structured essay questions from a choice of four

- Part (a) 30 marks AO1
- Part (b) 15 marks AO2

Available January and June

Unit 2

Written Paper, 1 hour 15 minutes

50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks

90 marks

Two structured essay questions from a choice of four

- Part (a) 30 marks AO1
- Part (b) 15 marks AO2

Available January and June

Unit 3

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

25% of total A Level marks

100 marks

Two structured essay questions from a choice of four

- Part (a) 30 marks AO1
- Part (b) 20 marks AO2

Available June

Unit 4

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

25% of total A Level marks

75 marks

One extended essay from a choice of two questions on the chosen topic

- Part (a) 45 marks AO1
- Part (b) 30 marks AO2

Available June

Subject Content

For Units 1 and 2 candidates study any two units from the following eleven available:

- Unit A: Religion and Ethics 1
- Unit B: Religion and Ethics 2
- Unit C: Philosophy of Religion
- Unit D: Religion, Philosophy and Science
- Unit E: **either** The History of Christianity **or** Religion, Art and the Media
- Unit F: Old Testament
- Unit G: New Testament
- Unit H: Religion and Contemporary Society
- Unit J: World Religions 1 (**either** Buddhism **or** Hinduism **or** Sikhism)
- Unit K: World Religions 2 (**either** Christianity **or** Judaism **or** Islam 1 *The Way of Submission*)
- Unit L: Islam 2 *The Life of the Prophet*

Subject Content

Choice of one unit from:

- Unit 3A: Religion and Ethics
- Unit 3B: Philosophy of Religion
- Unit 3C: The History of Christianity: *The Christian Church in the 20th century or Religion and Art*
- Unit 3D: Old Testament
- Unit 3E: New Testament
- Unit 3F: Religion and Contemporary Society
- Unit 3G: World Religions 1 (**either** Buddhism **or** Hinduism **or** Sikhism)
- Unit 3H: World Religions 2 (**either** Christianity **or** Judaism **or** Islam)

Subject Content

Choice of one topic from one of the following units:

- Unit 4A: Life, Death and Beyond **or** Perceptions of Ultimate Reality
- Unit 4B: Religious Fundamentalism **or** Religion and Contemporary Society **or** Religion and the Visual Arts
- Unit 4C: Religious Authority **or** Ways of Moral Decision-Making **or** Ways of Reading and Understanding Scripture

Assessment Objectives

AO1

Select and demonstrate clearly relevant knowledge and understanding through the use of evidence, examples and correct language and terminology appropriate to the course of study. In addition, for synoptic assessment, A level candidates should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the connections between different elements of their course of study

AO2

Critically evaluate and justify a point of view through the use of evidence and reasoned argument. In addition, for synoptic assessment, A level candidates should relate elements of their course of study to their broader context and to aspects of human experience