

GCSE (9-1)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Accredited Summary Brochure



REFORM – AN UPDATE

GCSE and A Levels Reform: An Update

The first teaching of new A Levels and GCSEs began in September 2015. We have been accredited by Ofqual for all of our reformed qualifications for first teaching from September 2015. The first teaching of this accredited qualification is September 2016.

Background to The Reforms

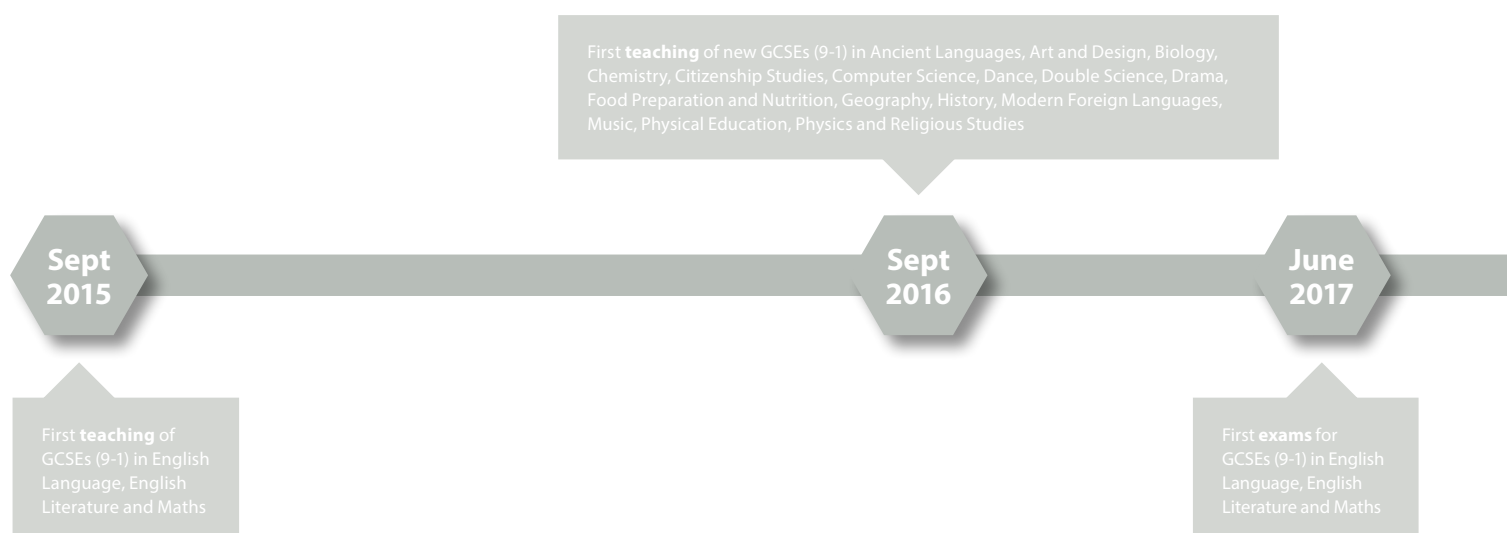
The former Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, initiated the reform of GCSEs and A Levels in February 2013, asking Ofqual to implement changes that would lead to new qualifications.

By reforming GCSEs and A Levels, the Department for Education (DfE) intends to:

- Make the qualifications more ambitious
- Better prepare young people for employment and further study
- Give everyone greater confidence in the integrity and reliability of the qualifications system.

The Government has stated that GCSEs will demand more from all students and that the purpose of taking A Levels is primarily for entry to university – changes are needed so students are better prepared to start their university course.

GCSE Timeline



Changes to Assessment

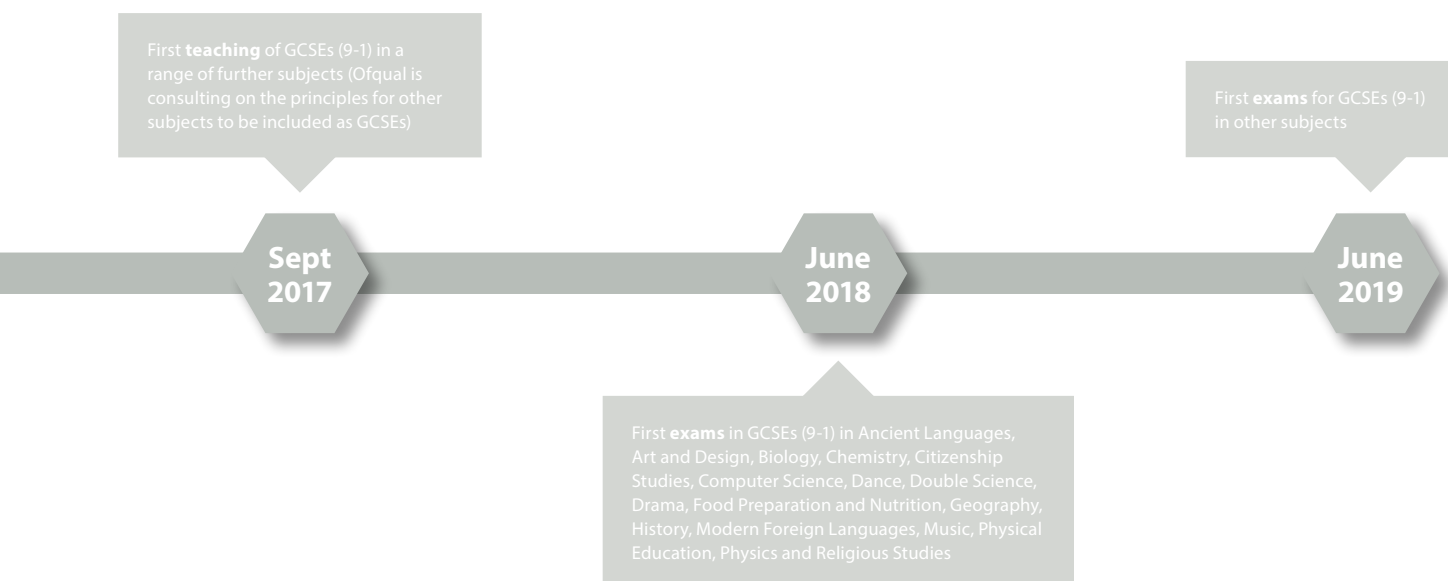
Key structural features of the new GCSEs:

- Linear GCSEs with assessment at the end of the two-year course in June
- Tiering in certain subjects only, such as Maths and Modern Foreign Languages
- Assessment predominantly by external exam only
- A new 9-1 grading system (9 = top level)
- Re-sit opportunities in November for Maths and English Language only.

School accountability and performance measures key headlines:

- Progress across a suite of 8 subjects (Progress 8)
- Attainment across 8 subjects (Attainment 8)
- The percentage of pupils achieving a C grade or better in English and maths
- The EBacc.

For more information refer to ocr.org.uk/gcsereform



INTRODUCING RELIGIOUS STUDIES CHANGES – AT A GLANCE

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Our GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies specification provides your learners with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of two religions, and explore philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world. We are striving to inspire learners to engage in relevant topical issues and acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to learners in the twenty-first century. At OCR, we are passionate about this subject and want to share our enthusiasm and are keen to enable learners to acquire skills that will be transferable across the curriculum. Religious Studies can open up the possibility of in-depth debate, which leads to critical evaluation and analysis.

The specification has been designed after engaging with teachers, higher education and consultants resulting in a clear and accessible specification. We appreciate that a new specification may bring challenges and we want to support teachers in the delivery with training and a range of quality resources. The OCR Religious Studies team will be supporting you throughout the lifetime of the qualification, along with content developers who have a range of experiences within teaching, assessment and education.

GCSE short course in Religious Studies

The content for the OCR GCSE Religious Studies short course will be half the content of the GCSE full course. Learners will be able to study beliefs and teachings in relation to two religions, and two different themes adopting the approach of religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

The specification includes exciting content exploring relationships and families, peace and conflict, belief in God and non-religious belief.

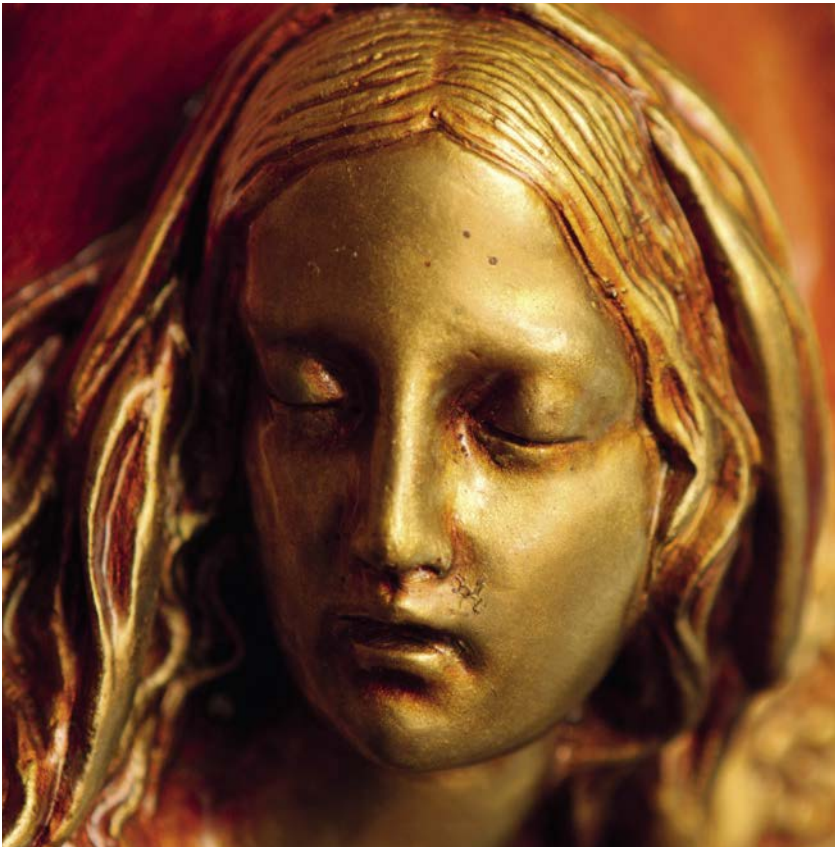
Component title	Content overview
Beliefs and teachings & practices (01-05)	Study two religions from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity• Islam• Judaism• Buddhism• Hinduism
Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective (06-10)	A study of four themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships and families• The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality• Religion, peace and conflict• Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

WHAT'S STAYING THE SAME, WHAT'S CHANGING?

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Due to new regulatory requirements, there have been changes to the specification's structure, assessment and content.

	What's staying the same?	What's changing?
Assessment and Structure	Marks will be awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG). All components are assessed by written examination.	The qualification has compulsory components.
Content	Familiar philosophical and ethical themes	Learners will study two religions



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies

Learners must take **two** components from Component Group 1 (Components 01-05) and **one** component from Component Group 2 (Components 06-10) to be awarded the OCR GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Beliefs and teachings & practices (01-05) Learners are required to study two religions from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity (J625/01) Islam (J625/02) Judaism (J625/03) Buddhism (J625/04) Hinduism (J625/05) 	Component Group 1 The study of a first religion 63 marks* 1 hour written paper	25% of total GCSE
	Component Group 1 The study of a second religion 63 marks* 1 hour written paper	25% of total GCSE
Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective (06-10) Learners are required to study this component from the perspective of one of the following religions***: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity (J625/06) Islam (J625/07) Judaism (J625/08) Buddhism (J625/09) Hinduism (J625/10) Four themes to be studied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships and families The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality Religion, peace and conflict Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes 	Component Group 2 Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world 126 marks** 2 hour written paper	50% of total GCSE

* 3 marks will be available for SPaG. See Section 3f for more details.

** 6 marks will be available for SPaG. See Section 3f for more details.

*** The religion studied here must be one of the religions chosen in Component Group 1 (01-05).

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies provides progression from Key Stage 3 and through to a number of AS and A Level subjects.



SPECIALIST ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Resources and support for our GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies qualification, developed through collaboration between our Religious Studies Subject Specialist, teachers and other subject experts, are available from our website.

Subject Specialist Support

OCR Subject Specialists provide information and support to schools including specification advice, updates on resource developments and a range of training opportunities.

Subject Specialists work with subject communities through a range of networks to ensure the sharing of ideas and expertise supporting teachers and students alike. Subject Specialists are dedicated to working with developers to help produce specifications and the resources needed to support these qualifications during development, an essential part of which is working alongside teachers through the Teacher Advisory Groups to obtain genuine honest feedback.

You can contact our Religious Studies Subject Specialist for specialist advice, guidance and support.

Meet the team at ocr.org.uk/religiousstudiesteam

Contact them at:

01223 553998

ocr.religiousstudies@ocr.org.uk

[@OCRexams](#)

To stay up to date with all the relevant news about our qualifications, register for email updates at ocr.org.uk/updates

Religious Studies Community

The social network is a free platform where teachers can engage with each other – and with us – to find and offer guidance, discover and share ideas, best practice and a range of Religious Studies support materials.

To sign up, go to social.ocr.org.uk



Michelle Webb

RESOURCES

Our aim is to help you at every stage of the introduction of a new specification and we're working hard to provide a practical package of support in close consultation with teachers and other experts.

For a start, we'll provide a range of high-quality creative resources. Tailored to the needs of each subject, their focus is on supporting creative teaching approaches and progression for all students. We see our resources as a body of knowledge that will grow throughout the lifetime of the specifications. They are built on the best practice we've identified from our ongoing discussions with the teaching community.

We are also developing exciting new digital tools to help you explore and interact with our resources. The Scheme of Work Builder will allow you to construct personalised schemes of work and you'll be able to add in the specification content, our wide range of resources and teaching suggestions, as well as add your own content and materials.

Please visit our website at ocr.org.uk/reformresources for details of the new tools we are developing and to take a look at the types of resources on offer.

Publisher Partner Resources

We're working with a number of leading publishers who are publishing resources for the new GCSE, AS and A Level specifications for 2016. We're working together to make sure that the resources embed the fundamental content of each specification, while delivering the breadth and depth needed to succeed at GCSE, A Level and beyond.

You can find more details about all our publisher partners and all the resources they're providing on our website at ocr.org.uk/publishing-partners

FREE GCSE AND A LEVEL REFORM TRAINING EVENTS

An introduction to the new specifications

We're running free training events throughout the next academic year to help you get to grips with the reformed qualifications for first teaching in September 2016.

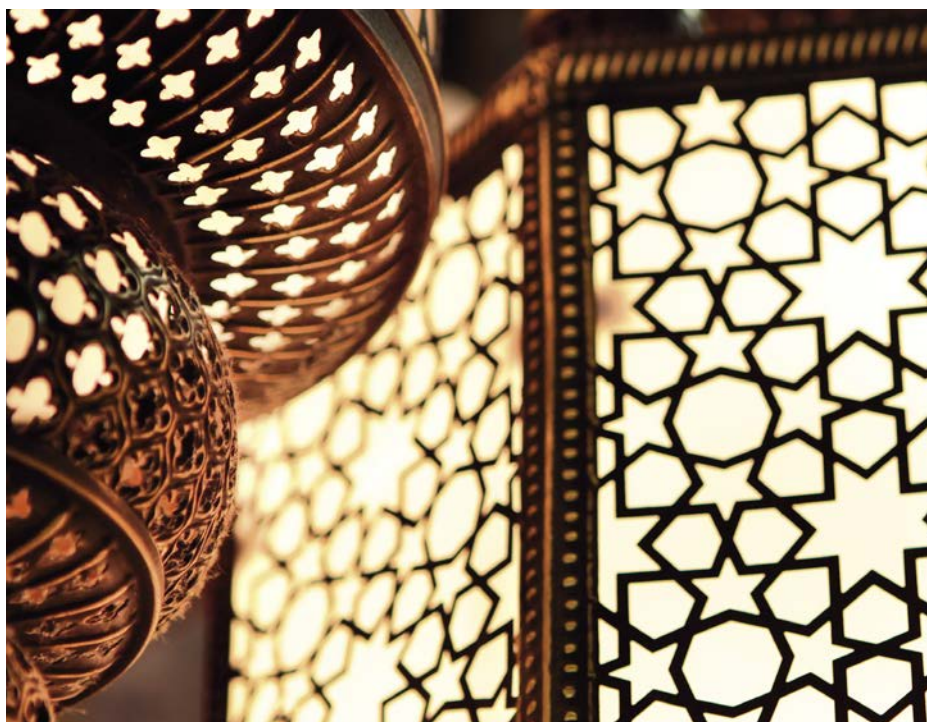
Practical events, created with you in mind

These carefully planned free events are designed to help smooth the path to the first teaching of reformed qualifications and provide you with an understanding of:

- The new specification content, structure and assessment
- The differences between the existing and new specifications
- The resources and support available for qualifications.

They'll give you the opportunity to speak face to face with our team, and network and discuss teaching approaches with colleagues.

To receive more information about dates, and the wide range of locations as we release them, please register for A Level or GCSE reform email updates at ocr.org.uk/updates



ASSESSMENT PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS SERVICES

We recognise that the introduction of a new specification can bring challenges for implementation and teaching. Our aim is to help you at every stage and we're working hard to provide a practical package of support in close consultation with teachers and other experts so we can help you to make the changes.

Along with subject-specific resources and tools, you'll also have access to a selection of generic resources that focus on skills development, professional guidance for teachers and results data analysis.

Services and tools for GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies:



Subject Specialist Support

Our Subject Specialists provide you with access to specifications, high-quality teaching resources and assessment materials available through ocr.org.uk/gcsereligiousstudies



Active Results

Our free online results analysis service helps you review the performance of individual students or your whole cohort. For more details, please refer to ocr.org.uk/activeresults



Skills Guides

These guides cover topics that could be relevant to a range of qualifications, for example communication, legislation and research. Download the guides at ocr.org.uk/skillsguides

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Giving your students the edge

Our **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** can provide your students with the skills that universities look for, to help them stand out from the crowd.

Four steps to success



It's straightforward for your students to take our inspiring EPQ. They can enjoy the freedom of working in their own way as they undertake a project based either on a subject they're studying or in an area of personal interest.

With its skills-based assessed assignment, the qualification is ideal for helping students improve transferable skills such as planning, research, analysis and evaluation, and they can take it as part of either an academic or vocational curriculum.

It's the equivalent of an AS Level and designed as a one-year course.

Three reasons to deliver the EPQ

- It's worth up to 70 UCAS points
- There is real flexibility and ease of delivery – it can be taught by non-specialist staff and run over one or two years, and it has two entry points (January and June)
- Fewer guided learning hours than AS Level and requires fewer resources.

Find out more at ocr.org.uk/extendedproject

NOTES

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Download high-quality, exciting and innovative GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies resources from ocr.org.uk/gcsereligiousstudies

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