

RELIGIOUS STUDIES QUALIFICATIONS

Summary brochure

Our qualifications for 14 to 19 year olds aim to bring religious studies to life and engage your students by relating the religions they study to real-world issues.

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

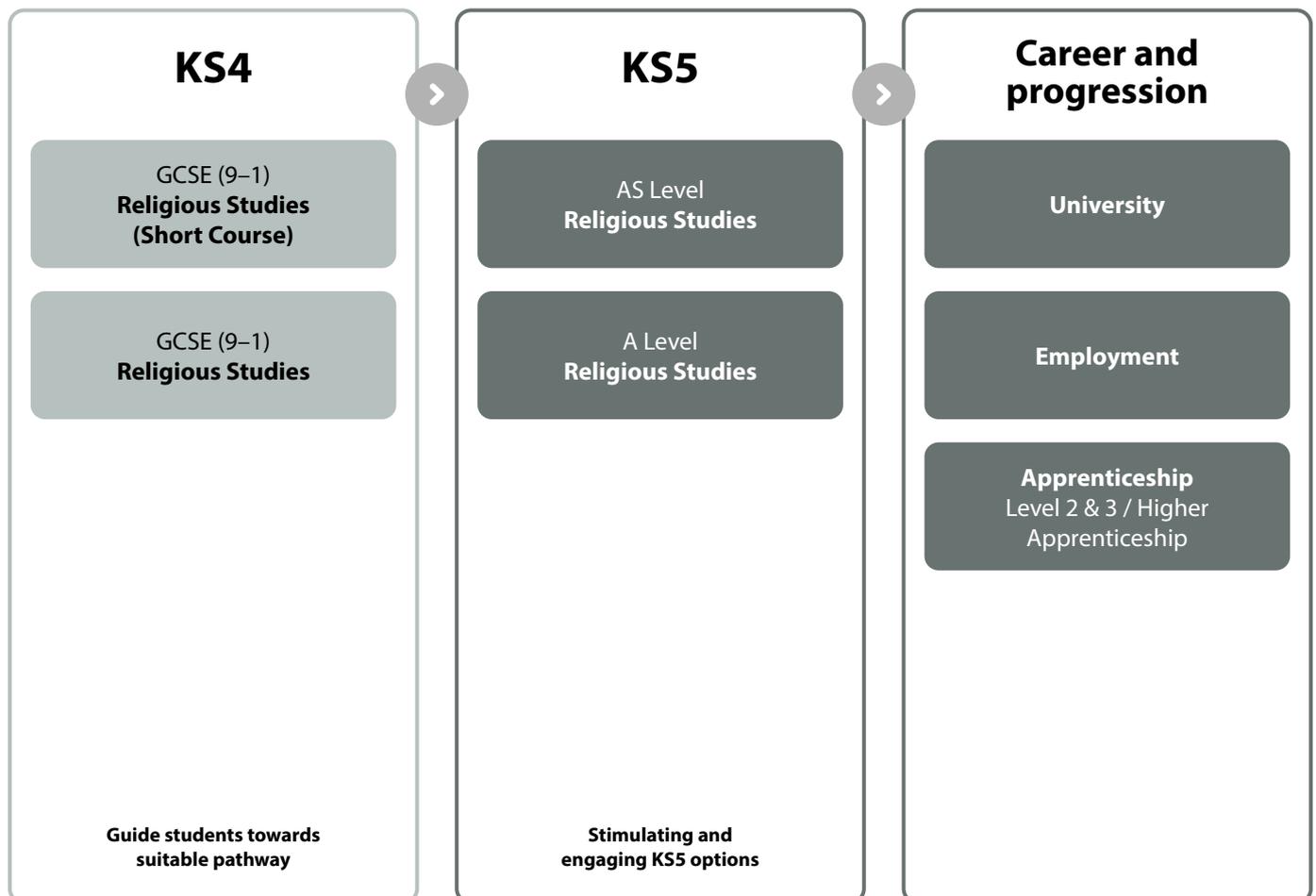
- 3 | Pathways for religious studies**
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- 7 | Supporting you in qualification delivery**

Helping you bring religious studies to life

Religious studies teachers know that this subject can be a real source of interest and inspiration. We've carefully designed our specifications to encourage your students to learn about world religions, engage in topical issues and consider major issues that are relevant to them.

We've also created teacher-friendly specifications with simple, clear assessment structures, backed by support services designed to help you at every stage from preparation to delivery.

PATHWAYS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES



GCSE (9–1) RELIGIOUS STUDIES (SHORT COURSE)

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

J125

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to go on to AS or A Levels, higher education or a career choice

PROGRESS TO:

Further study at A Level, and higher education

FINAL AWARD:

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

No

THE QUALIFICATION

The content for our GCSE Religious Studies short course is half the content of the GCSE full course. Engaging and stimulating, it enables your students to learn about beliefs and teachings in relation to two religions (from a choice of Christianity, Islam and Judaism) and two different themes – exploring religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world.

The specification encourages students to develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they're studying. They also consider the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies, and study non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

They engage with questions of meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life. They also reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they've learnt, and this contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

ASSESSMENT

This is a straightforward specification with a clear and balanced structure. Students take one paper – Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world.

This two-hour written paper is split into three sections:

- Section A – Beliefs and teachings – 60 marks*
- Section B – Relationships and families – 30 marks
- Section C – Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes – 30 marks

*Six additional marks will be available for spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology (SPaG) in Section A. See Section 3f of the specification for more details.

READ MORE:

[**ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/religious-studies-j625-j125-from-2016/#gcse-\(short-course\)**](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/religious-studies-j625-j125-from-2016/#gcse-(short-course))



GCSE (9–1) RELIGIOUS STUDIES

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

J625

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to go on to AS or A Levels, higher education or a career choice

PROGRESS TO:

OCR AS or A Level Religious Studies

FINAL AWARD:

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

Our GCSE in Religious Studies encourages your students to learn more about world religions, philosophy and ethics. The specification includes inspiring content exploring relationships and families, peace and conflict, belief in God, non-religious belief and more.

There's the opportunity for them to gain a deeper understanding of two religions (from a choice of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism) and explore philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world from a religious perspective.

They learn how to engage in debate and discussion about life in a modern pluralistic society. They're also encouraged to develop and understand personal values and beliefs, with an emphasis on critical analysis and on being able to construct balanced and informed arguments within the context of religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.

It's a straightforward yet flexible specification with a balanced structure that offers combinations of study. It contains clear, detailed and stimulating content to allow you to enthuse your students while being confident that you're preparing them for assessment to the depth and detail required.

ASSESSMENT

Students take two components from Component Group 1 and one component from Component Group 2. These are examined in three written papers.

Component Group 1
The study of a first religion

Component Group 1
The study of a second religion

Component Group 2
Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective (from the perspective of one of the religions chosen for Component Group 1)

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/religious-studies-j625-j125-from-2016



AS AND A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

AS Level – H173

A Level – H573

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to go on to higher education or a career choice

PROGRESS TO:

Study of subjects including religious studies, theology and philosophy or related courses or directly into apprenticeships or employment

FINAL AWARD:

A* (highest) to E (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

More students take A Level Religious Studies with OCR than with any other awarding organisation in England (2023 entry data/JCQ data).

Our AS and A Level specifications include exciting content exploring world religions, ethical issues and debates, and philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief.

We carefully selected the material for our AS and A Level to retain popular areas, but also make use of the wide variety of ideas and topics available. For example, we give students the opportunity to study Plato and Aristotle as well as the important, highly relevant issues raised in business ethics.

Our specifications aim to give students a really good grounding in the beliefs and practices of a chosen religion, but also reflect contemporary concerns and the 'big issues' in the faiths today.

The opportunity for your students to apply their knowledge and skills to contemporary issues creates an up-to-date and thoroughly relevant course.

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'.

ASSESSMENT

Both the AS and the A Level have a simple, clear assessment structure that consists of two written examinations.

Students study three components:

- Philosophy of religion (01)
- Religion and ethics (02)
- Developments in religious thought (03–07).

All three have clear and well-defined content and strong supporting materials.

While components 01 and 02 are mandatory, the third is chosen from the five options: Christianity (03), Islam (04), Judaism (05), Buddhism (06) or Hinduism (07).

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016



SUPPORTING YOU IN QUALIFICATION DELIVERY

Our aim is to support you on your journey with us from initial enquiry right through to results. To help you get going, support you through delivery and allow you to develop professionally, we provide a massive range of support to help secure your students' futures.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

EXPERT SUBJECT ADVICE

Our subject advisors provide information and support to schools, including specification and non-exam assessment advice, updates on resource developments and a range of training opportunities. You can reach them through our customer support centre on **01223 553998** or by email at **religious.studies@ocr.org.uk**. You can also find teacher support at **ocr.org.uk/religiousstudies**

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

- **Teach Cambridge**
Teach Cambridge is our new personalised and secure website that provides teachers with a single point of access to all the support and resources you need to teach our qualifications.
- **Curriculum planners for A Level**
Suggested teaching and learning activities and links to resources.
- **Curriculum plan for GCSE**
An editable document to help teachers plan the course.
- **Scheme of work for GCSE**
An editable scheme of work with suggested teaching and learning activities and links to resources.
- **Skills guides**
A range of generic skills guides providing knowledge and tips covering topics such as communication, research skills and exam techniques.
- **Glossaries for GCSE**
A useful list of terms students could use to enhance their learning at GCSE.
- **Glossaries for A Level**
A useful list of terms students could use to enhance their learning at A Level.
- **New thinkers for A Level**
New thinkers/scholars for all the components in A Level, includes biographies, summaries of their key ideas/works and references.

PARTNER RESOURCES AND TEXTBOOKS

Our religious studies qualifications are supported by endorsed textbooks and resources published by leading publishers. You can find more details about our publisher partners and the resources they're providing at **ocr.org.uk/publishing-partners**

BLOGS

Read our blogs and gain interesting insights from our subject advisors and other leading figures from the world of education.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Sign up today at **ocr.org.uk/signup** for OCR updates including subject news, upcoming events and useful resources.

ASSESSMENT

ACTIVE RESULTS

This is a **free** online A Level, GCSE and Cambridge Nationals results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and students. Find out more at **ocr.org.uk/activeresults**

ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

Sample question papers and sample candidate work.

PAST PAPERS

Previous examination papers for each subject with which you and your students can practise.

EXAMINER REPORTS

Reports from our senior examiners discussing student performance in the exams, now featuring extracts from candidate work.

CANDIDATE EXEMPLARS

A selection of candidate answers and work with associated examiner commentary.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND EVENTS

All our qualifications are supported with comprehensive training. Check out **ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment** to find out what's available for face-to-face or online training courses.

TEACHER NETWORKS

These free informal twilight meetings are designed to encourage and develop local networking and support for religious studies in your area. They're an opportunity to speak with like-minded colleagues and one of our subject advisors.

Visit **teach.ocr.org.uk/teacher-network-events** to find a meeting near you.

JOIN OUR TEACHER PANEL

SHARE
VALUABLE
FEEDBACK ON
EVERYTHING
FROM
CREATIVE
CONCEPTS
TO TEACHING
AND SUPPORT
RESOURCES.

ocr.org.uk/join

NEXT STEPS

STEP 1

ALREADY AN OCR CENTRE?

GREAT, YOU'RE ALL SET.

**IF NOT, CALL OUR
CUSTOMER DEVELOPMENT
TEAM ON 02476 856072**

STEP 2

**ASK YOUR EXAMS
OFFICER FOR ACCESS TO
TEACH CAMBRIDGE**

teachcambridge.org

STEP 3

**DOWNLOAD
THE SPECIFICATION
AND CHECK OUT OUR
RANGE OF RESOURCES**

STEP 4

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE
BY SIGNING UP FOR
EMAIL UPDATES**

STEP 5

**BOOK ONTO PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS
AND TEACHER NETWORKS**

ocr.org.uk

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 ocr.org.uk/religiousstudies

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religious.studies@ocr.org.uk

Visit our online support centre at
support.ocr.org.uk



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