

Support highlights

We've collated links to some of our core resources into this one-stop guide. These highlighted resources will enable you to get up to speed quickly in the classroom and support your students in preparing for assessment. They include materials that will focus your teaching on individual abilities of students, help determine their capabilities and above all save you time. Many more resources are available from the [OCR website](#).

OCR A Level (H573) specification

[Download our specification](#)

The specification explains the aims and learning outcomes of the qualification. It details what students are expected to know, understand and do. The specification details the content and key knowledge, issues for discussion and suggested scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of authority.

The 'content' column details the focus of each topic and provides information on the main areas of study. 'Key knowledge' provides details of the knowledge expected of students.

Each topic ends with a section detailing discussion points. While it is expected that discussions on these topics will range wildly, the listed points are considered to be central debates and issues appropriate for assessment.

Exam questions can be set on the content, key knowledge and discussion points. The specification also explains aspects of assessment in A Level RS. It is your starting point and is useful for planning, both long and medium term, along with individual lessons.

Curriculum planners

Download our curriculum planners

[Philosophy of Religion](#)

[Religion and ethics](#)

[Developments in Christian thought](#)

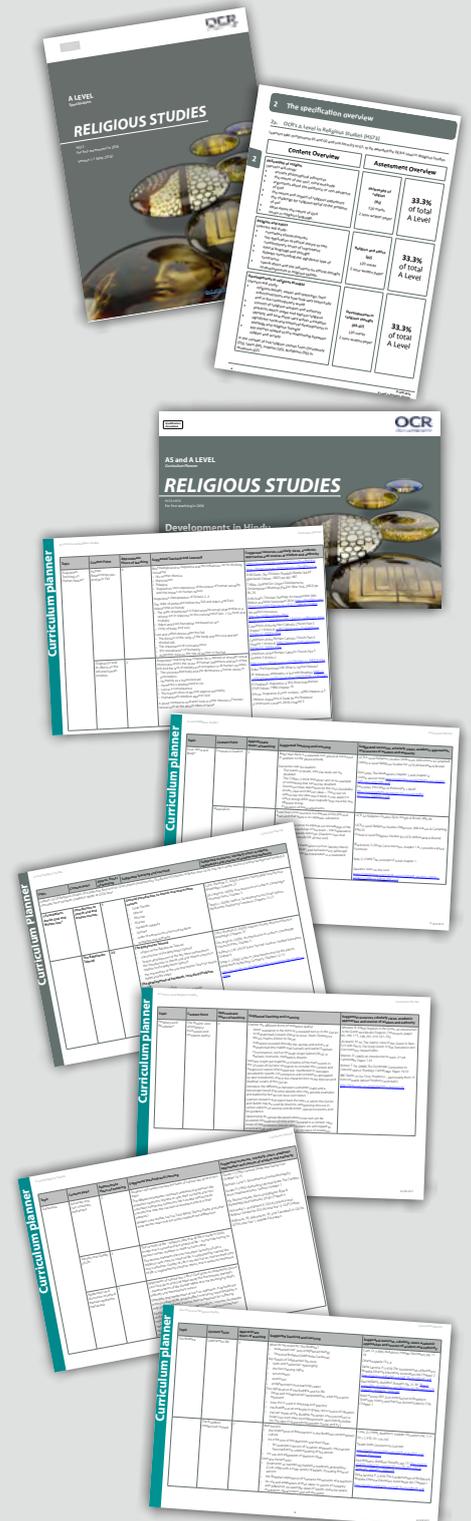
[Developments in Islamic thought](#)

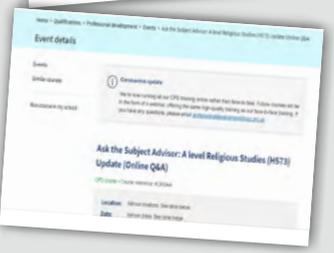
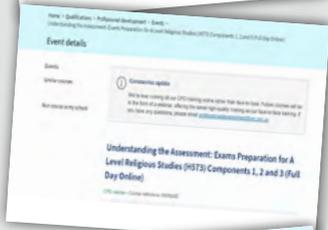
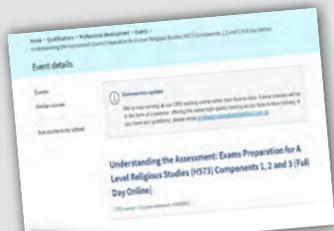
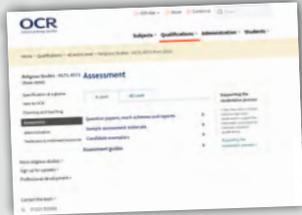
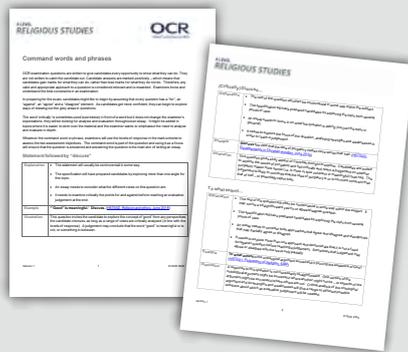
[Developments in Jewish thought](#)

[Developments in Buddhist thought](#)

[Developments in Hindu thought](#)

Curriculum planners are available for each of the seven components and give approximate hours; suggested teaching and learning and resources; scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority. They give a possible approach of how the specification can be taught.





Command words resource

[Download our command words resource](#)

The new command words assessment guide gives the command words we use for our exam questions, with explanations, examples and illustrations. This will help students understand what is expected of them in the exam.

New resources to support you

Assessment materials

Access past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports from the [OCR website](#).

Professional development

Understanding the Assessment: Exams Preparation for A Level Religious Studies (H573) Components 1, 2 and 3 (Full Day Online)

[Exam Prep event for Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian thought](#)

This full day online event will focus on assessment, providing feedback on previous exam series including marking activities and teaching and learning, focussing on planning and teaching difficult content. This event will build on our past successful face to face CPD events, with a greater focus on teaching and learning.

Understanding the Assessment: Exams Preparation for A Level Religious Studies (H573) Components 1, 2 and 4 (Full Day Online)

[Exam Prep event for Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Islamic thought](#)

This full day online event will focus on assessment providing feedback on previous exam series including marking activities and teaching and learning focussing on planning and teaching difficult content. This event will build on previous exam feedback events, but with a focus on Islam.

Understanding the Assessment: Exams Preparation for A Level Religious Studies (H573) Components 1, 2 and 6 (Full Day Online)

[Exam Prep event for Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Buddhist thought](#)

This full day online event will focus on assessment providing feedback on previous exam series including marking activities and teaching and learning focussing on planning and teaching difficult content. This event will build on successful exam feedback events, with a focus on Buddhism.

In the spring there will be webinars covering the following components in separate twilight sessions: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian thought.

Ask the Subject Advisor: A level Religious Studies (H573) Update (Online Q&A)

There will be several free Subject Advisor online updates over the course of the year – these events will provide teachers with an update about the year ahead in terms of resources, networks and CPD. There will be discussion of the key headlines and themes from past examiner reports and an opportunity to ask questions.

See our range of professional development courses using [‘Find an event’](#)

We’re now running all our CPD training online rather than face-to-face. Future courses will be in the form of a webinar, offering the same high-quality training as our face-to-face training. If you have any questions, please email professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk

Publisher materials

Hodder Education

Hodder Education has published new endorsed textbooks covering [Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian thought](#). The new textbooks cost £15.99 each. They have also published three revision guides and workbooks covering the same three components. The original endorsed books covering Year 1 and Year 2 that were first published in 2016 are still available, at a cost of £27.99 each.

Oxford University Press

OUP has published Year 1 and 2 endorsed textbooks covering [Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian thought](#) costing £27.99 each.

They also have a revision guide available at a cost of £19.99.

Polity Books

Polity have published endorsed textbooks covering [Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian thought](#) costing £17.99 each.

Other resources

[Cambridge in Your Classroom](#) - The Faculty of Divinity and the Faculty of Education Religious Education PGCE course have collaborated in a series of [videos](#) covering a range of topics. The videos are supported by guidance for teachers with activities, More are on the way.

[The Panpyscast](#) is a weekly 'informal and informative' philosophy podcast inspiring and supporting students, teachers, academics, and free thinkers worldwide. The show has covered our Religious Studies A Level specification as well as a range of other topics. The goal of each episode is to make exciting and challenging research accessible to students, teachers, academics and the general public.

[The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) is an online resource which organizes scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work.

[Crash Course](#) is a YouTube channel started by John and Hank Green in association with PBS, the American public broadcast service. These are videos across subjects including science, computer science, engineering, media, history, literature, drama, mythology, statistics, chemistry, physics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, business, biology and economics.

[A History of Ideas](#) from the BBC Radio 4 programme is another collection of videos on YouTube. The series answers big questions answered and explains big theories in under 2 minutes from the BBC Radio 4 programme – A History of Ideas. The videos were scripted by philosopher Nigel Warburton.



Keep connected

Blogs

In this [blog](#) we discuss students moving up from GCSE to A Level and top recommendations for them to get ready.

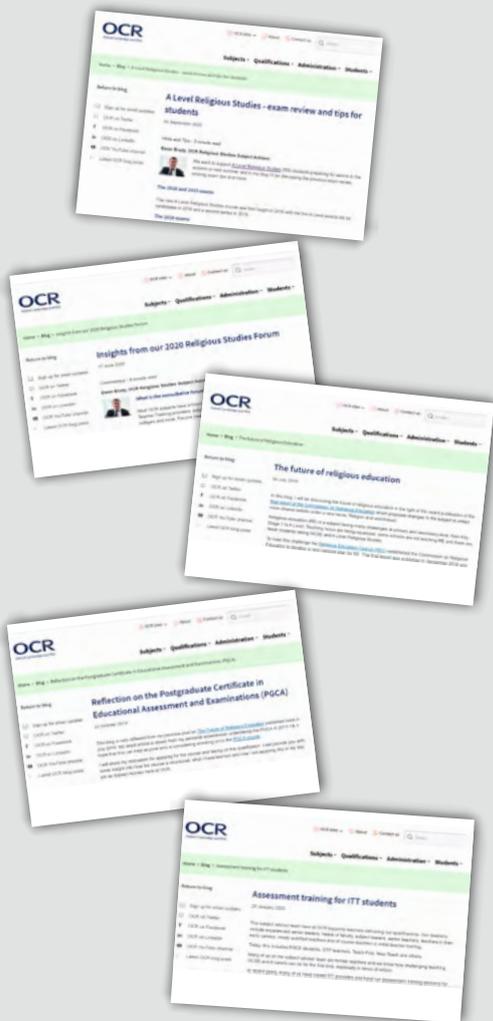
In this [blog](#) we discuss the 2018 and 2019 exams and offer exam tips and ideas for improvement.

In this [blog](#) we discuss the insights from our 2020 Religious Studies Forum where the conversations focussed on the impact of GQ reforms on GCSE RS; teachers and texts; promoting RE/RS and The Panpsycast podcast.

In this [blog](#) we discuss the future of religious education following the publication of the Commission on RE's final report and our talks at the 2019 OCR RS Forum.

In this [blog](#) Ewan Brady, Subject Advisor for RS, discusses his reflections studying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Assessment and Examinations at the University of Cambridge.

In this [blog](#) we discuss assessment training for PGCE and ITT students and materials that we have made available.



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