

Get set for success

in WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies Route A

In your exams you must demonstrate your ability to:

DEFINE

the a. questions
2 marks

This question is asking you to **define** one of the **key concepts** and add an **example** to show that you really understand what the word means.

DESCRIBE

the b. questions
5 marks

For these questions, you will need to **describe** an event, belief, teaching, attitude or practice. Remember to include good **religious language** and **sources of wisdom and authority** in your description. You should also consider how believers are **affected** or **influenced**.

Top Tip

Supporting your answers with relevant sources of wisdom or sacred texts will help to improve your marks. You don't need to remember the exact words or references, but state in your own words what these sources say and how believers interpret them.

EXPLAIN

the c. questions
8 marks

This time the question is asking you to **explain** an event, belief, teaching, attitude or practice. 'Explain' questions require you to provide a detailed explanation of not just 'what' but also 'why'. Using the word 'because' is a good way to do this.

Again, you must include good **religious language** and **sources of wisdom and authority** in your answer and show understanding of how beliefs **affect** and **influence** individuals, communities and societies.

! Don't Forget

In the Component 1 (Philosophical & Ethical Issues) c. questions you must remember to explain the views of **two different religions or religious traditions**. Don't include non-religious beliefs here.

DISCUSS

the d. questions
15 marks

These questions ask you to **discuss** the given statement. Read the statement carefully, **analyse** it and consider it from **more than one viewpoint**. You need to **evaluate** how true or valid the statement is according to different viewpoints and then reach a **judgement** on how true or valid it is.

You must use good **religious language** and **sources of wisdom and authority** in your answer and consider how beliefs **affect** and **influence** individuals, communities and societies.

! Don't Forget

Remember to include the views of **non-religious believers** in the 'Life and Death' d. question.

Top Tip

You can pick up extra marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar in the first d. questions of Components 1 and 2, so try to use your **best written English** when answering these questions.

The Keys to Success

Define and give an example

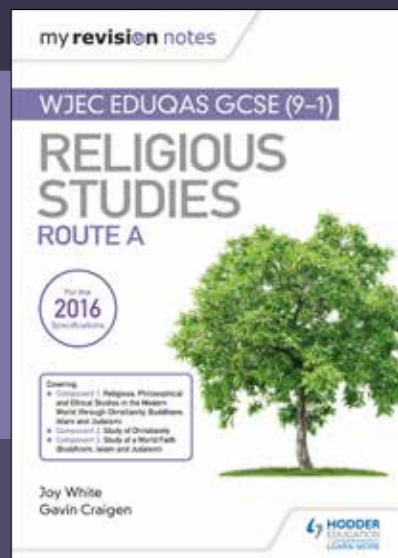
Describe and KISS

Explain and KISS

Discuss and KISS JO

K = Knowledge and understanding
I = Influence of belief
S = Sources of wisdom and authority
S = Specialist religious language
J = Judgements/evaluation
O = Other views

Find out more about the assessment requirements overleaf



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For detailed guidance on how to answer the different question types, more exam tips, and practice exam questions and answers, check out our WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route A revision guide.

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The key to the Keys to Success

Get set for success

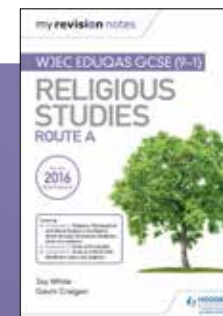
in WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies Route A

The assessment requirements: What you need to know

- ✓ The a. questions will relate only to the eight key concepts
- ✓ **Only** Component 1 c. questions will ask directly for **two religions/religious traditions**. You **don't** need to include more than two as that may lead to lack of sufficient depth in your answer
- ✓ Do **not** include non-religious responses in the c. questions for Component 1 as these ask for two **religious** views
- ✓ **Relevant content** from the Component 3 religion studied may be used in Components 1 and 2 where **appropriate**. For example, it could be included in c. **questions of Component 1** that ask for two perspectives and also in those **d. questions of Components 1 and 2** that lend themselves to including perspectives from other religions
- ✓ Question d. is the **only** question that targets Assessment Objective 2 (**analyse and evaluate**)
- ✓ You only need to include **non-religious beliefs** in Question 2d. of Component 1
- ✓ All d. questions can include non-religious beliefs **as long as it is appropriate to the question asked**
- ✓ The d. questions must show **evaluation** and **reach judgements** about the statement so that they are different from the Component 1 'Explain' (c. question) responses
- ✓ Personal responses that **also fulfil one or more** of the criteria in the marking bands will be credited
- ✓ Responses that offer **no personal opinion** will be credited as long as the evaluation is clear to see
- ✓ **Sources of wisdom and authority** include figures of authority as well as sacred and important texts. Relevant and accurate references to sources of wisdom and authority not in the specification content will also be credited
- ✓ References to specific passages (e.g. John 1:14) are not necessary and **will not** gain extra credit
- ✓ Teachings and texts **do not** need to be quoted directly; an **accurate** paraphrase, used **appropriately**, will be equally credit-worthy
- ✓ The lines **do not** have to be filled; quality always matters more than quantity or including a prescribed number of points. Black pen should be used, but blue will also be accepted
- ✓ **Positive marking** will be employed: incorrect or irrelevant content in responses will be ignored rather than penalised
- ✓ **Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)** marks will be applied to the **first d. questions of Components 1 and 2 only**. One or two minor errors could still be awarded full SPaG marks but completely irrelevant and/or completely inaccurate content cannot be awarded SPaG marks. Slight differences in spelling of non-English words will still be credited, e.g. Hebrew words



Component 1 = Philosophy and Ethics
Component 2 = Christianity
Component 3 = The world religion you have been studying



My Revision Notes from Hodder Education

Plan and manage a successful revision programme with *My Revision Notes* for WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies Route A. Our revision guide contains a wide range of features that will help you to consolidate and develop your understanding of the content, as well as practise and perfect your exam technique, so that you can approach your exams with confidence.

Key content is condensed into manageable chunks.

Definitions and explanations of key concepts aid and reinforce your understanding.

Exam practice questions help you to build your exam skills and prepare for the different question types. Answers are provided online.

Life on earth

In this area of study you will be expected to know the beliefs and teachings about *pikuach nefesh* (saving of life) and the relationship between free will and the 613 mitzvot (duties) between humans and with God.

The nature and importance of *pikuach nefesh*

What is <i>pikuach nefesh</i>?	The saving of a life. This might include breaking a mitzvah e.g. working on Shabbat or eating non-kosher food.
Why is <i>pikuach nefesh</i> important?	God created life (Psalm 139:13–15) in his image (Genesis 1:26–27). Therefore, life is seen as sacred. Therefore, life is sacred. To save a life (<i>pikuach nefesh</i>) takes priority over all but three of the mitzvot (idolatry, incest and adultery).
What impact does <i>pikuach nefesh</i> have today?	Many Jews will consider <i>pikuach nefesh</i> when making decisions about life and death issues. However, they should be able to prove that a life will be actually be saved. Some Jews consider the teachings of Jeremiah 1:5 or teachings from the Talmud (Yoma 84b) when making decisions about when life begins.

Activity

- Select two of the following and explain how *pikuach nefesh* might be relevant.
- Should the death penalty be reintroduced?
 - Should abortion be legal?
 - Should euthanasia be legal?
 - Should contraception be allowed?
 - Should everyone have to carry a transplant donor card?
 - Should an Orthodox Jewish doctor work on Shabbat?

Relationship between 613 mitzvot and free will

Jews will keep the mitzvot in different ways. They believe God gave them free will to choose to follow the mitzvot or not. Some of the 613 mitzvot are no longer relevant as they relate to the Temple, which was destroyed.



Mitzvot is a term that has a mix of meanings: it is most often used to refer to duties (such as the 613 in the Torah) and good deeds.

Activities consolidate your understanding and create a more varied revision programme.

Tick boxes enable you to keep track of your revision progress.

Expert exam tips teach you how to answer questions more effectively.

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