

EDUQAS GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2024

Summer 2023 papers and mark schemes

The 2023 question papers and marking schemes are available on the **secure** site (please ask your Examinations Officer for access). They are placed on the secure site, rather than on the public web-site, as many centres choose to use the most recent question paper as a mock examination.

Principal Examiners' comments on how each question in each paper performed are available here: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments. These are invaluable sources of information for improving candidate performance, so please take advantage of them.

Professional Learning

In Autumn 2023, the professional learning (CPD) was available as free, two hour, on-line events., that focused on performance in the 2023 series. The recording of the Route A event and the materials used at the Route B event are available on the **secure** website.

In Spring, 2024, face-to-face events will be held at Manchester (February 5th) and London (February 6th).

Route A and Route B (Catholic) face-to-face events will take place on the same date and at the same venue, but will be separate events. See here to book a place on the face-to-face events: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/?sub_nav_level=courses#tab_training

The informal, 'Eduqas RS Q&A Café' free, on-line sessions are led by a Regional Support Officer. They are particularly useful for centres or teachers who have recently started teaching the Eduqas specification, but everyone is welcome, and they are good opportunities to network with others and share ideas and resources. The Spring event is February 19th at 4pm.

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/?sub_nav_level=courses#tab_training

Resources

A reminder to explore the Digital Resources Site to find helpful resources, often student-centred and highly interactive:

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=26&lvlId=2>

Of particular interest might be new resources such as these:

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=1613>

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=1914>

Recently added to the digital resources site is a booklet of high achieving responses to the Summer 2023 examinations series. It offers examples across all papers and all question types and includes comments:

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=2090>

The exam walk-throughs are often useful training for teachers and pupils on the assessment expectations of the different question types:

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1499> (Route A)

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1500> (Route B)

For a more pupil-centred summary of the Route A GCSE, a 'cartoon' is available here: <https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rliid=1276>

(Route A)

AO2 – High Level Responses to the d. Questions (under 'Key Documents' and 'Resources for Teachers' on the GCSE RS homepage)

See here a range of responses to the d. questions that are considered to be high achieving. These are taken from a selection of papers and examinations series.

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=34794>

Religious Studies in 2023/24

The Department for Education and Ofqual have announced no plans to develop a new GCSE Religious Studies specification, or to make amendments to the current one.

Religious Studies Short Course

Eduqas is aware that other Exam Boards have withdrawn their GCSE Short Course provision. We would like to re-assure you that we have no plans to do likewise. In fact, our Short Course numbers were higher this year than in previous years. If you are interested in the Short Course qualification, see here for the Short Course specification: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Entry Pathways – Religious Studies

This is not a new qualification but is often used by schools for candidates who perform at a standard below GCSE. It is course-work/project based, but does cover the statutory requirements of locally agreed syllabuses for RE. It is entirely possible to teach this qualification from the perspective of Catholic Christianity and Judaism and so may be useful for Catholic centres.

For more information, follow this link:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/entry-pathways-humanities/#tab_keydocuments

Option/Parents' Evening Materials (under 'Key Documents' and 'Option Evening' on the GCSE RS homepage)

See here a range of engaging, printable promotional material to use with pupils, parents and senior leaders that highlight the value of studying religion, ethics and philosophy. Very recently added is a flyer that explains the GCSE course for pupils: 'Your Journey to Becoming Exam Ready' - (Route A and Route B)

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Good luck with the Spring term and, as always, please contact us directly with any queries:

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