

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies

September 2022 Newsletter

Summer 2022

Following two years that have been like no other, welcome back to what will hopefully be a more normal academic year.

The Eduqas GCSE papers were sat and the qualifications were awarded in late August.

The 2022 adapted papers and marking schemes are now available on the secure site (please ask your Examinations Officer for access).

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 2022/23, the professional learning (CPD) will be available as face-to-face and on-line events.

Face-to-Face events will be held at York, Manchester and London.

Route A and Route B (Catholic) face-to-face 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 or the on-line events: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/?sub_nav_level=courses#tab_training

Free on-line sessions are also available to those schools who have switched from another Exam Board or are considering doing so. Again, there are separate events for Route A and Route B. 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>

Religious Studies in 2023

Currently, the Department for Education and Ofqual have announced no plans to adapt the 2023 GCSE Religious Studies papers. So as things stand, there will be no advance information given on the general topic areas for assessment.

Religious Studies Short Course

Eduqas is aware that other Exam Boards have withdrawn their GCSE Short Course provision. We would like to 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.

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 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

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. We will continue to add to these from the Summer 2022 series:

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

A warm welcome to our new 'Q & A Café'

Welcome to our half-termly, on-line forum where you can ask questions and share ideas and resources with other Eduqas teachers (Routes A and B). The first will take place on Wednesday, November 9th at 16:30. Please book on using this link:

<https://eduqas.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873639689>

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

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