

Get set for success in WJEC GCSE Religious Studies



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. If appropriate to the question, you should also consider how religious belief affects or influences believers

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 you should also consider how religious belief affects or influences believers, if appropriate to the question.

! Don't Forget

In the Part B (Philosophical & Ethical Issues) c. questions you must remember to explain the views of **two different religions: Christianity plus the second religion you have studied.** 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, if appropriate to the question, you should also consider how religious belief affects or influences believers.

! 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 Units 1 and 2/3, so try to use your best written Welsh or English when answering these questions.

The Keys to Success

Define and give an example

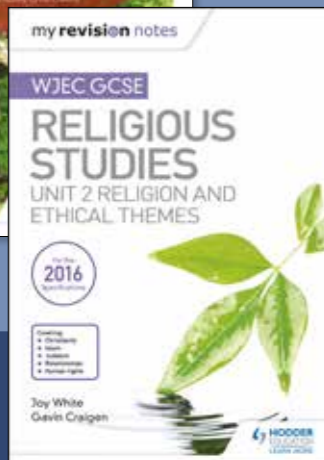
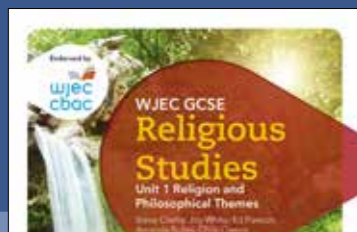
Describe and KISS

Explain and KISS

Discuss and KISS JO

K = Knowledge and understanding
I = Influence of belief
(if appropriate to the question)
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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The key to the
Keys to Success

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in WJEC GCSE Religious Studies

The assessment requirements: What you need to know

- ✓ The a. questions will relate only to the eight or twelve key concepts
- ✓ Part B c. questions must include views from **two religions**, i.e. Christianity and the second religion. No more than two are needed and non-religious views are **not appropriate** for this question
- ✓ Question d. is the **only question** that targets Assessment Objective 2 (**analyse and evaluate**)
- ✓ You must include **non-religious** beliefs in Unit 1 Part B Question 1d. ('Life and Death')
- ✓ All d. questions can include non-religious beliefs **if it is appropriate to the question asked**
- ✓ Responses to d. questions can, but do not have to, include arguments **for and against** the statement, but there must be **clear evaluation** of the issue or the arguments surrounding the issues
- ✓ 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 response still shows clear evaluation
- ✓ **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 Units 1 and 2/3**, (i.e. Part A – Christian/Catholic Beliefs or Practices) **only**.



Units 1 and 2 (or 3):

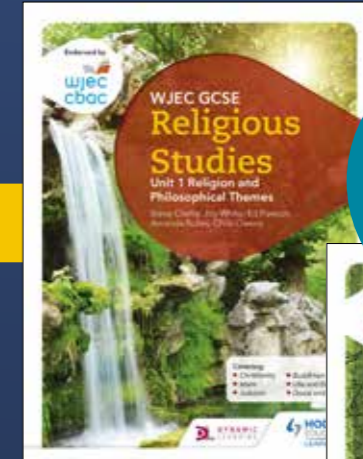
- Part A = Beliefs, Teachings and Practices
- Part B = Philosophical/Ethical Themes

Resources from Hodder Education

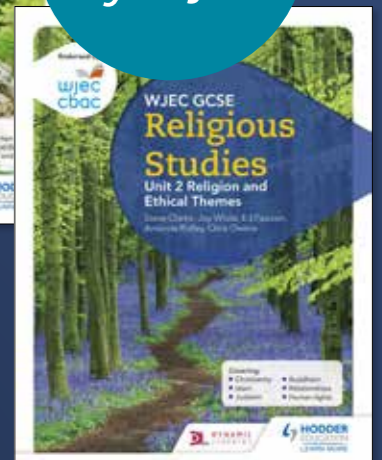
Student Books

Master the content and understand the assessment requirements with our textbooks for Unit 1 and Unit 2. With clear, detailed coverage of the content and guidance on how to tackle different exam questions, these textbooks will help you to develop and consolidate your knowledge so you can approach your exams with confidence.

Our Unit 1 and Unit 2 Student Books are also available in eTextbook formats and Welsh-language editions.



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My Revision Notes

Target success in WJEC GCSE Religious Studies with this proven formula for effective, structured revision; key content coverage is combined with exam-style tasks and practical tips to create revision guides that you can rely on to review, strengthen and test your knowledge.

Unit 1 revision guide

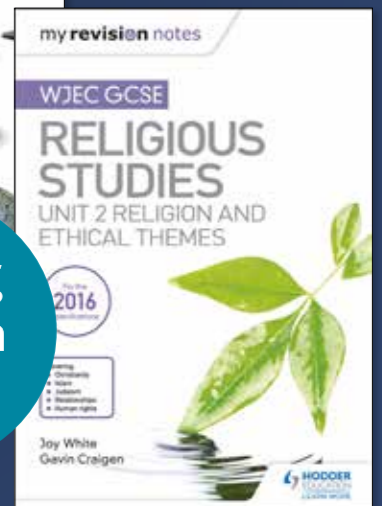
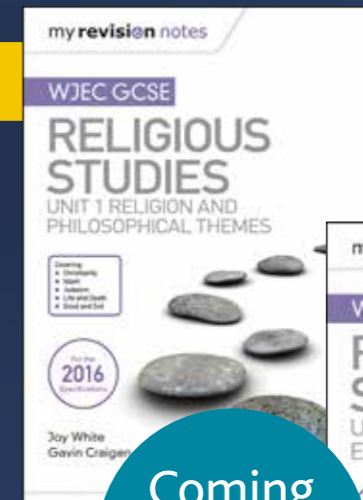
Content covered:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Life and Death
- Good and Evil

Unit 2 revision guide

Content covered:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Relationships
- Human Rights



Coming
Autumn
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