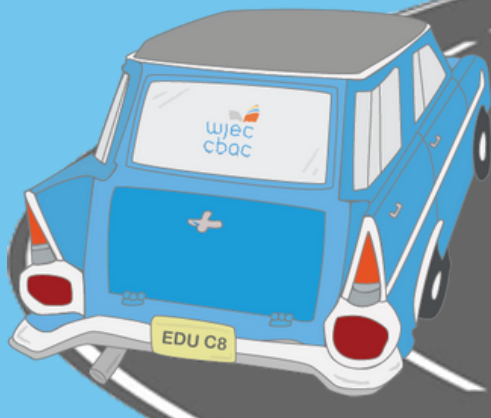


YOUR JOURNEY

TO BECOMING EXAM READY



WELCOME TO WJEC GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



where you will get the chance to:

- Gain an understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices of two major world religions
- Explore the opinions and convictions of non-religious believers
- Explore ultimate questions such as: “Was the Universe created?” “Does human life have purpose?” “If God exists, why does evil exist?” “Are some actions always wrong?” “Is there a life after death?”
- Improve your understanding of the many contemporary ethical and religious issues that arise in societies across the world
- Improve your philosophical and critical thinking skills and your ability to think conceptually
- Improve your extended writing skills and your ability to explain in depth and to present arguments and counter arguments in a logical, coherent and intelligent way

PLANNING AHEAD...

Unit 1:

This Unit provides you with the opportunity to study four areas:

Part A:

A study of the core beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity (or Catholic Christianity) and one other world religion (Judaism for Catholic Centres).

Part B:

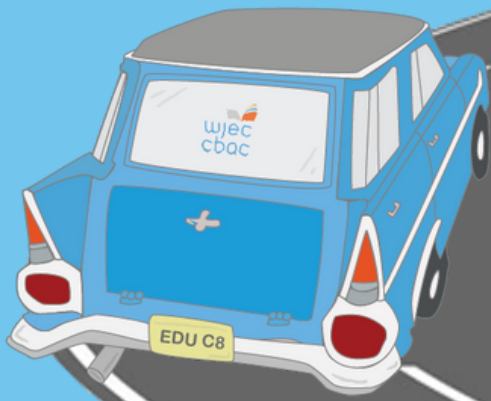
Religious Responses to Philosophical Themes:

Issues of Life and Death

Issues of Good and Evil

NOTE: ONLY THIS UNIT CAN BE USED TO GAIN A SHORT COURSE GCSE

Find out more at www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse



PLANNING AHEAD

Unit 2:

This Unit provides you with the opportunity to study four areas:

Part A:

A study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and one other world religion

Part B:

Religious Responses to Ethical Themes:

Issues of Relationships
Issues of Human Rights

Unit 3: FOR CATHOLIC CENTRES ONLY (INSTEAD OF UNIT 2)

Part A:

A study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Catholic Christianity

Part B:

Religious Responses to Ethical Themes:

Issues of Relationships
Issues of Human Rights

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?



- You will develop the ability to use religious terminology competently and with confidence. You will understand the meanings of key words and phrases as they are used by believers.
- You will increase your understanding of non-religious convictions and views
- You will develop the knowledge and skills to be able to describe religious beliefs, teachings, practices, views and opinions in a detailed way.
- You will improve your skills of explanation and learn to explain religious ideas, concepts, practices and attitudes thoroughly and in-depth
- You will understand how sources of wisdom, used in an accurate and relevant way, serve to support religious beliefs, teachings and practices
- Your extended writing will improve as you learn to clearly express and justify a variety of different viewpoints and develop reasoned arguments in a coherent and mature way.
- Religious and moral issues are always in the news – but is the information given always reliable, fair, balanced and impartial? You will learn to develop your critical thinking skills to analyse and evaluate information in order to make informed and intelligent decisions about the issues and challenges that affect religious and non-religious believers.



Scan the QR code, to access examples of how studying R.S. has helped people in their chosen careers.

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

TOP TIPS

- Turn on the news feed on your phone! Religious and ethical issues are always in the news and you can use appropriate examples in your answers
- Try to make connections between the two Units you are studying.
- Have a copy of the specification content in your file and tick off each section of content as you cover it (use this to revise too!). [Here is an example.](#)
- Use past paper questions and mark schemes to practise (time yourself as you answer each type of question)
- In the exam, consider answering the d. questions first
- If you can, get your own copy of the main text-book and/or revision guide
- Use the free digital resources on the [WJEC website](#). Resources titled 'Skillsbuilders' may be of particular benefit

In your AO1 written responses (i.e. questions a. b. and c.) try to use:

- full sentences
- full definitions of Key Concepts in the a. questions (include an example, if appropriate)
- detailed descriptions for b. questions
- detailed explanations for c. questions
- examples and evidence, where appropriate
- sacred texts/sources of wisdom and authority, where appropriate
- specialist language and vocabulary (not just the Key Concepts)
- connections between other areas you have studied
- good spelling, punctuation and grammar

In addition to the above, when writing AO2 responses (i.e. d. questions) try to use:

- provide reasoning and/or evidence to support your arguments
- discuss and argue the statement and don't just explain it

HOW WILL STUDYING GCSE R.S. HELP ME IN MY CAREER?

- The transferrable skills developed by studying Religious Studies are actively sought by employers. These include the ability to:
 - Understand how multi-faith, multi-cultural and secular societies function
 - Understand and show respect for the beliefs and teachings behind the diverse views and practices within societies
 - Engage in debates in such a way that recognises the right of others to hold different views, whilst still having the informed conviction to stand by your own
 - Communicate clearly and effectively in discussion and in extended writing
 - Construct well informed and reasoned arguments that can be justified
 - Use critical thinking skills to interrogate and question accepted norms and media output

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

In each exam the following two skills will be tested:

- AO1 knowledge and understanding of religion and belief
- (50% of the assessment weighting - Questions a. b. c.)
- AO2 analysis and evaluation, (50% of the assessment weighting - Question d.)

Unit 1:

- Exam = 4 Questions in 2 hours
- Answer all questions

Unit 2:

- Exam = 4 Questions in 2 hours
- Answer all questions

Unit 3: (Catholic Centres only)

- Exam = 4 Questions in 2 hours
- Answer all questions