

# WJEC 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 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.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments). These are invaluable sources of information for improving the performance of your students, so please take advantage of them.

Please remember they were unusual question papers for unprecedented circumstances and as such will be quite different from the papers that came before and will come after.

Adaptations for 2022 included advance information on the general topic areas of certain questions, a 25% reduction in assessed content per Unit and the suspension of the requirement to include non-religious beliefs in Unit 1 Question 3d.

The grade boundaries were set broadly at a mid-way point between the 2019 and 2021 outcomes.

### 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 take place at Cardiff and Llandudno. See here to book a place on the face-to-face or the on-line events:

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/?sub\\_nav\\_level=courses#tab\\_training](https://www.wjec.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.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=26&lvlId=2>

Of particular interest might be new resources such as these:

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=5051>

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=4537>

## Religious Studies in 2023 and beyond

From September 2022 a new Subject Officer will manage the Wales suite of GCSE qualifications. Christopher Owens is a subject specialist with many years of teaching, lecturing and examining experience. He has been a Principal Examiner for WJEC at both GCSE and A Level and has authored textbooks and delivered training. WJEC is delighted to welcome him to the RS team.

Going forward, Lynda Maddock will manage the Eduqas qualifications. She wishes the Wales team all the very best for the future.

Welsh Government has announced its intention to offer advance information on the general topic areas of certain questions in 2023. More information will be released in the Autumn term.

Meanwhile, draft proposals for the development of new GCSEs will be sent from Qualifications Wales to stakeholders for consultation in the Autumn term. **There are important decisions being made for the future of GCSE RS, so please have your say in this consultation!**

## 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.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/humanities-entry-pathways/?sub\\_nav\\_level=course-materials#tab\\_resources](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/humanities-entry-pathways/?sub_nav_level=course-materials#tab_resources)

## Option/Parents' Evening Materials (in 'Key Documents' and 'Option Evening' on the 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 Starts Here' -

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=41393>

## AO2 – High Level Responses to the d. Questions (in 'Key Documents' and 'Resources for Teachers' on the 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.wjec.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=34920>