

GCSE Religious Studies

Summer series 2025

The GCSE Religious Studies examination papers were completed in May and June, with the qualification awarded in late August. Examination papers were completed across all options, apart from Sikhism where there was no entry in either unit.

Principal Examiners' reports on how candidates performed in the different options will be available on the WJEC website late September. These reports are an invaluable source of information for helping to improve the performance of students. There are also copies of all past papers and mark schemes available for use by centres.

New Qualification

The first teaching of the new qualification GCSE Religious Studies begins this September. The new qualification has four units but only units 1,2 and 3 will be available for first assessment in 2026. There is a range of support materials currently available, both on the public WJEC web site and the centre accessed portal to support both the examined units 1 and 3 and the non-examined units 2 and 4.

These materials include the detailed specification, specimen assessment materials (SAMA), guidance for teaching for each unit, and an options evening flyer.

Further materials will be available later in the Autumn term, including recorded 'Examination walk through' presentations for each of the units.

New blended learning materials have been produced to support the new specification, and these are editable for centres to adapt the materials to their own use, with many of the legacy materials continuing to be relevant for the new qualification.

The BBC BITESIZE site also has a range of relevant materials from the legacy GCSE which supports the new qualification; follow the link [GCSE Religious Studies - WJEC - BBC Bitesize](#)

In the Autumn term the Bible Society will be producing an updated resources booklet for all the Bible references used in the new specification for Christianity and Catholic Christianity.

There are a range of new resources produced by Humanists UK to support teachers; follow the link [Resources » Understanding Humanism](#)

Important dates

The release date of the unit 2 NEA is **1st September 2025**.

The submission date of the unit 2 NEA candidate marks is **24th March 2026**.

Following on from the national 'Preparing to teach' events earlier in the year an online 'Preparing to Assess' PL event is scheduled for **23rd October 2025 4.00pm - 5.30pm** and this will be available in English and Welsh medium.

The on-line course is designed to support teachers preparing to mark the internally assessed unit 2. The session will focus on the requirements of the NEA, the assessment objectives and highlight key points from the mark scheme and marking bands. There will also be an opportunity to explore exemplar materials created specifically for illustrating approaches to marking. Advance booking is required.

There are also free blended learning on-line workshops 4.00pm - 5.00 pm in September and October. These one-hour workshops are an introduction to the WJEC blended learning+ platform to complement the Made-for-Wales qualifications and are available in English and Welsh medium. Advance booking is required.

Further details follow the link [GCSE Religious Studies | Made for Wales](#).

Moderators and assistant markers

Applications to work as a moderator and assistant marker for the new qualification NEA assessments may be made through the appointees website: [Make Your Mark - Become an Examiner](#).

Get in touch

If you have any queries...

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GCSE RS

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