### WELCOME
We hope you will find this bulletin useful.

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### 1 Message from Tudor Thomas

**WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer**

I have always made efforts to speak to Centres on the telephone and via email. I intend to continue with this service as will my colleague Andrew Pearce. I am looking at ways of increasing our availability via phone and email. As always if you have any issues or concerns please contact me or Andrew. I am dealing with GCSE and Andrew with GCE and Entry Level.

The consultation for both GCSE and GCE went public in early November. Teachers and anyone else may respond to these consultations. I would urge serving teachers to respond to this consultation on the Ofqual and DFE websites before the closing dates:-

Revised GCSE

New GCSE RS Wales (teaching from Sept 2016) - WJEC has started the revision process and will be able to make real progress once the criteria are finalised. In England WJEC will be using its new brand ‘Eduqas’ to provide an exciting and innovative range of RS specifications, specimen assessment materials, resources and will be working with publishers to provide commercially produced support materials. The first examinations will be in summer 2017.

In Wales WJEC is working with stakeholders and Welsh Government to revise GCSE RS specifications. WJEC will be consulting with centres over the coming months. In Wales it is likely that unitised assessment will remain. We will inform centres of developments once the consultation process has taken place. This consultation will involve a questionnaire which will be circulated by WJEC.

It is important to note that the new or revised RS GCSE specifications, which are being developed by WJEC, will be the only ones available to the maintained sector in Wales. (For further information please see here.)

New GCSE RS qualification England (teaching from Sept 2016) WJEC has begun the revision process and will be able to make real progress once the proposed criteria are finalised. In England, WJEC will be using its new brand ‘Eduqas’ to provide an exciting and innovative range of RS specifications, specimen assessment materials, resources and will be working with publishers to provide commercially produced support materials. The development stage of this process will begin in January 2015. WJEC will be consulting with centres over the coming months. We will inform centres of developments once the consultation process has taken place. This consultation will involve a questionnaire which will be circulated by WJEC. The first examinations will be in summer 2018.

Revised GCE R.S.

New GCE R.S. Wales

WJEC has begun the revision process and is working with stakeholders and Welsh Government to revise the GCE RS specifications. WJEC will be consulting with centres over the coming months. We will inform centres of developments once the consultation process has taken place. This consultation will involve a questionnaire which will be circulated by WJEC. The first examinations will be in summer 2017 for the AS level and then 2018 for the new A level qualification.

Again it is important to note that the new or revised RS GCE specifications, which are being developed by WJEC, will be the only ones available to the maintained sector in Wales. (For further information please see here.)
GCE R.S. England

WJEC has begun the revision process and will be really able to make real progress once the proposed criteria are finalised. In England WJEC will be using its new brand ‘Eduqas’ to provide an exciting and innovative range of RS specifications, specimen assessment materials, resources and will be producing support materials. The first examinations will be in summer 2017 for the new standalone AS level and 2018 for the new A level qualification.

2 New Religious Studies Subject Officer

On September 1st 2014, Andrew Pearce began his role as the second Religious Studies Subject Officer at the WJEC (with main responsibility for GCE level). He is also working alongside Tudor with the revision of both GCSE and GCE RS for schools in England and Wales.

Andrew studied Theology at King’s College London followed by PGCE at University College Swansea. He began teaching in Birmingham before moving back to South Wales. He taught for twenty two years at Pencoed with various responsibilities from SENCO to Head of 6th Form. He taught RS throughout the key stages and had a big teaching commitment in Key Stage 4 and post 16. He played an active role on Bridgend SACRE.

Andrew recently also led the GCSE Specification A and B CPDs. He is looking forward to working with both examining teams and centres in the months ahead. His contact details can be found at the end of this bulletin.

3 Paul Bradley’s retirement

Paul Bradley my Administrative Support officer is retiring at the end of the autumn term. Paul has worked in numerous roles for the WJEC for forty years. He has worked as Senior Support Officer for RS for just over ten years and during that time has transformed the administrative systems of the subject. He has played a major role in organising the very large Specification B conferences and has provided excellent administrative support across the subject. I know that he will be sorely missed within the organisation but also in the wider religious studies community. I am sure all examiners and teachers will join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

From January 1st 2015 Chris Barfoot will be assisting me with GCSE RS Specification B and Specification A. Hannah Griffiths has been recently appointed to assist Andrew Pearce with GCE and Entry Level.

Eira Morgan also left WJEC at the end of September 2014. She assisted me as an RS Consultant for two years on a part time basis and contributed greatly to the smooth running of the subject and providing support to centres at all levels. We wish her ever success with her future.
4 Subscribe to Religious Studies updates

RS teachers are encouraged to join the SUBSCRIBE system which can be found on the Religious Studies page on the WJEC website. Subscribers will automatically be up dated about changes and any new resources support available.

Would you like to subscribe to Religious Studies updates and be kept informed of developments and important information? If so, email Chris Barfoot at christopher.barfoot@wjec.co.uk stating your name, centre name and number and confirm the level of Religious Studies that you are interested in i.e. GCE level, GCSE Spec A, GCSE Spec B or Entry Level.

5 Twitter

WJEC Religious Studies is now on Twitter. You can follow us to stay up to date with the latest news and developments, as well as finding links to interesting articles, resources and teaching ideas. Follow us:

WJEC RS English feed: @WJEC_RS

WJEC RS Welsh feed: @CBAC_AstCref

For example there was a recent twitter post about Cardiff University's first MOOC "Muslims in Britain: changes and challenges" will be offered again in 2015. The course enables you to develop your understanding of Muslims and their faith through an exploration of communities in Britain. The course begins on 9th February 2015 and last for 4 weeks and involves 4 hours/week study time. This course uses Britain as a case study to shed light on wider issues relating to the growth of Islamic communities across the culturally Christian and increasingly secularised Western World. The course is free-of-charge, and open to anyone with an interest in religion, culture and history, whether you are a beginner, experienced learner or returning to study. It can be accessed via https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/muslims-in-britain

6 GCSE NEWS

WJEC will continue to meet the needs of both Wales and England across the full spectrum of our GCSE qualifications. The subject content of the current WJEC GCSE specifications remains unchanged until September 2016.

KEY DETAILS FOR SPECIFICATION A AND SPECIFICATION B

Specification A has a systematic study of religion, and Specification B, involves a thematic study of some central questions and issues in human life and experience exploring the relevance of religious beliefs, values and traditions to these questions and issues.

Specification B has the added advantage of allowing schools to meet the statutory requirements of both the 1944 Education Act and the 1996 Education Act.

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<tr>
<th>KEY DATES FOR CURRENT GCSE SPECIFICATION A and B 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline date for GCSE entries</td>
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<td>Deadline date for Entry amendments</td>
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<td>Publication of Results Summer 2015</td>
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GCSE SPECIFICATION A
Full details relating to this specification can be found on the WJEC website by clicking on the link provided here.

WJEC has now published on the WJEC website a complete set of resources for Specification A that can be found on the WJEC website under Resources for Teachers. There are also new resources being uploaded regularly on our resources website: http://resources.wjec.co.uk/

GCSE SPECIFICATION B
Full details relating to this specification can be found on the WJEC website by clicking on the link provided here.

PUBLICATIONS TO SUPPORT GCSE SPECIFICATION B
Centres are continuing to use the popular resources below that can be found on our bookshop website.

Hodder and Stoughton have revised their very popular ‘Believing and Living’ (Religion and Life Issues) and ‘Believing and Experiencing’ (Religion and Human Experience) written by Joy White and Gavin Craigen. Hodder have also developed a student work booklet to accompany the above titles. For further details please click http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/getdoc/e6ee04c8-9c11-4ea2-961b-bdcccf493701/WJEC-GCSE-RE.aspx.

Oxford University Press have two publications to support the Specification B Unit 1 – Religion and Life Issues and Unit 2 Religion and Religious Experience. This is written by Ina Taylor who is a very successful author of a number of text books. For further details please click http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/education/secondary/9781850084358000.do

Heinemann, part of the Pearson Group have published books to support Specification B, Units 1 (Religion and Life) and Unit 2 (Believing and Experiencing). Significant contributions are authored and included from practising teachers Tanya Long, Helen Bartley and Laura Burridge and former teacher Chris Owens. Heinemann have also produced web based materials as well to support Specification B. For further details please click http://www.pearsonschoolsandfcolleges.co.uk/Secondary/ReligiousEducationandCitizenship/14-16forWJEC/14-16forWJEC.aspx

All of the above books and materials are now published and are available from WJEC bookshop or directly from the publishers. In addition to these textbooks we also have a new resource website that is being regularly updated that can be found here: http://resources.wjec.co.uk/
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Units 1 and 2: All Topics Question (d)
The question has been raised as to whether this question ‘Explain from two religious traditions…..’ can be answered from two traditions within the same religion.

ANSWER: Please refer to
2.1 Number and Combination of Religions to be Studied (page 7) of the Specification which states:

For each topic of the specification questions will be set requiring candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, practices, values and traditions of:

either (i) Christianity and one other principal religion

or (ii) a Christian tradition within the broader context of Christianity.

In alternative (ii) candidates will be expected to study one Christian tradition throughout all four topics and be able to place the tradition within the broad context of the Christian faith so that the study is balanced in terms of breadth and depth. They will be required to answer questions on each topic which will anticipate a knowledge and understanding of two Christian traditions.

Candidates can therefore answer from two branches of Christianity and should state which ones they are referring to in the space marked ‘religious tradition 1’. It may be that there is little or no difference between the two traditions, e.g. Roman Catholicism and Anglican. If this is the case, candidates must write everything in full twice. ‘Roman Catholics believe the same thing.’ will score no marks.

Candidates must be aware that in either Unit Paper: Unit 1 (Religion and Life Issues) or Unit 2 (Religion and Human Experience) they may be asked for the viewpoint from one religious tradition only. There will be sufficient specification content for candidates to gain the full marks.

7 GCE NEWS

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS
RS3 CS: Studies in Religion and Contemporary Society
RS3 ETH: Studies in Religion and Ethics
RS3 PHIL: Studies in Philosophy of Religion
RS3 CHR: Studies in Christianity

RS1/2 CS: Introduction to Religion in Contemporary Society
RS1/2 ETH: Introduction to Religion and Ethics
Rs1/2 PHIL: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion.

All of these GCE resources may be downloaded and copied free of charge from the WJEC Secure Website by all WJEC registered centres.

For a further listing of publications that support GCE please click here.

Some interesting and relevant articles for candidates can be found in the publication RS Review Volume 11, 2014/15. Topics include Virtue Ethics, New Testament Studies, Is there life after death?, Nibbana and Pascal’s thoughts. Subscriptions can be purchased via this link :-

http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product?Product=9781471803796
8  ENTRY PATHWAYS – HUMANITIES

Entry Pathways - Humanities has now been approved by the regulators Ofqual in England and DfES in Wales. Please refer to the statement on the Entry Pathways Humanities website page and details of forthcoming CPDs.

Please click on the attached link for more information:
http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=71&level=203

The subjects offered under the Humanities Pathways include: History, Geography, Religious Studies, Humanities and French. These subjects are offered at Entry level 2 and Entry 3 only. Centres will be able to choose to study units all in one subject area for example Religious studies, or mix and match from any other subject within the Humanities Pathway or a unit from another Pathway can be included in the Award or Certificate for Humanities e.g. Working as part of a group or a Religious Studies unit for example, can be included in another pathway such as personal and Social development. All Entry Level Pathway units are internally assessed and externally moderated (through scripts). Assessment will be criteria based rather than mark based.

If you have enquiries about Entry Level Pathways please contact Alison Doogan on 029 2026 5022 or email alison.doogan@wjec.co.uk, or Robert Williams on 029 2026 5327 or email robert.williams@wjec.co.uk.

9  ENTRY LEVEL AND KEY DATES

IMPORTANT NEWS

The regulators have allowed award bodies to continue to offer Entry Level Religious Studies for the foreseeable future.

KEY DATES FOR ENTRY LEVEL 2015

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<td>Deadline date for Entry amendments</td>
<td>Friday 16(^{th}) January 2015</td>
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<td>Submission of coursework:</td>
<td>Tuesday 5(^{th}) May 2015</td>
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<td>Publication of results:</td>
<td>Friday 3(^{rd}) July 2015</td>
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For queries relating to Entry Level Religious Studies please contact
Andrew Pearce: Email: andrew.pearce@wjec.co.uk
Tel: 02920 265387

10  Examiner Vacancies

There is always a need for examiners in this subject at all levels, especially in GCSE Religious Studies Specification B. If you are interested in examining for us, please apply online via - https://appointees.wjec.co.uk/. When there are no vacancies, then your application will be kept in our Reserve bank and referred to as and when vacancies occur.
11 WJEC SECURE WEBSITE

The WJEC Secure Website can be accessed by authorised staff at Centres that work with WJEC. This is often the Examinations Officer within the Centre. Once a Centre is registered, access is available to a range of resources including circulars, past papers and marking schemes. There is also the facility for entry/amendment file uploads and the ability to make online post-results enquiries.

If your Centre is not registered, please send an email to securewebsite@wjec.co.uk stating centre number, centre name, contact name and contact email address. Only the centre examinations officer should send this email. WJEC will then get a letter of registration out to your centre as soon as possible (normally within two working days). Please indicate on your email if your registration is urgent. Once registered, the examinations officer can then register other members of teaching staff additional limited access accounts themselves.

Online Exam Review
From autumn 2013, WJEC has offered an Online Exam Review programme. This innovative online resource will allow teachers to continue to receive a high standard of CPD in a new and interactive way.

The Online Exam Review provides a service tailored to teachers' specific needs and will be available to WJEC registered centres. It can be found here: http://oer.wjec.co.uk/ and features scripts from the 2013 and 2014 summer series of examinations.

Online Results Analysis
WJEC's Online Results Analysis allows teachers to explore in detail how their students have performed on externally assessed GCE and GCSE units, and compare this with others in the centre and all WJEC candidates.

Following feedback from teachers, we have improved the way we present data to teachers to make it easier for them to compare the performance of their students.

You can access Online Results Analysis from the WJEC Secure Website. Select Item Level Data from the left menu.

Please note that this is centre-specific information and is only available to teachers in that centre.

We have prepared a presentation to guide you through the system.

- Online Results Analysis (Powerpoint)
- Online Results Analysis (PDF)

Online Internal Assessment Standardising
Internal assessment standardising materials are on the WJEC Secure Website. Select
Resources PDF Download to access these for specific subjects. Access to the secure website is password protected. Please see your exams officer for the password for your centre.

13 WJEC WEBSITE Home Pages with useful links

Please visit the Homepages of Religious Studies.

WJEC has a new-look website! You can find useful links have been added, download specifications, past question papers, examiner reports, coursework/assessment and resource materials etc. If there are any ideas or suggestions on how you think the Religious Studies web pages could be improved please let us know.

The address to visit is:  http://www.wjec.co.uk/religiousstudies

Don’t forget to visit WJEC website regularly!

14 HOW TO CONTACT US:

From January 2015

SUBJECT OFFICERS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Tudor Thomas, (GCSE) tel: 029 2026 5122 email tudor.thomas@wjec.co.uk

Andrew Pearce, (GCE/entry level) Tel: 029 2026 5387 email andrew.pearce@wjec.co.uk

SUBJECT SUPPORT OFFICER FOR GCE
Hannah Griffiths, tel 029 2026 5183 email hannah.griffiths@wjec.co.uk

SUBJECT SUPPORT OFFICER FOR GCSE (Specification A and B)
Chris Barfoot, tel: 029 2026 5094 email christopher.barfoot@wjec.co.uk

GCE LEVEL SECTION
Kieran McDonnell, Section Head, tel: 029 2026 5148 email kieran.mcdonnell@wjec.co.uk

GCSE SECTION
Nick Brooks, Section Head, tel: 029 2026 5061 email nick.brooks@wjec.co.uk

ENTRIES SECTION
Caroline McGlynn, Section Head, tel: 029 2026 5193 email caroline.mcglynn@wjec.co.uk

BOOKSHOP
Caroline Redman, Bookshop Manager tel: 029 2026 5042 email caroline.redman@wjec.co.uk

Feedback is always welcome! Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Tudor Thomas     Andrew Pearce
WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer     WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer