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1 Farewell to Tudor Thomas

WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all schools in England and Wales for their incredible support over the last twenty years. I have had the pleasure of working across the whole of Wales and most areas in England. When I started at WJEC there were approximately 500 GCE candidates and about 4000 GCSE.

When I checked this year GCE has reached about 5,000 candidate entries and GCSE about 100,000 candidate entries. This is very much due to the support I have received from centres across England and Wales. I have always appreciated the dialogue which has existed between WJEC and all centres. I feel that this has been beneficial to centres and to WJEC.

I have been supported by a very creative, industrious and experienced team of examiners at all levels. I am particularly indebted to Karl Lawson and his team at A level and to Chris Owens, Joy White, Sali Roberts, David Baldwin and David Sharpe at GCSE. This last year has been a particularly challenging year with both GCE and GCSE specifications being developed at the same time and the normal routine work going ahead.

I have been ably assisted this year by Andrew Pearce who has led the GCE development whilst I led on the GCSE development. Without him I would not have survived this year! He is being joined in September by Lynda Maddock who will be responsible for GCSE. I wish her well for the future.

I am looking forward to my retirement and being able to spend more time with my wife who has supported me throughout my career and been there to sort out my three sons whilst I was away at meetings. This time is also tinged with regret as I have made so many friends both within WJEC and also with so many teachers and the wider RS community. I wish all colleagues a successful year facing all of the challenges that lie ahead.

Tudor Thomas
2 New GCSE Religious Studies Subject Officer:

Lynda Maddock

On September 1st 2015, Lynda Maddock began her role as Religious Studies Subject Officer at the WJEC (with main responsibility for GCSE level). She is also working alongside Andrew Pearce to develop the new GCSE and GCE RS Specifications for centres in Wales and England.

Lynda studied Divinity at Liverpool Hope University followed by PGCE at Bristol University and a Master's Degree in Theology at Bangor University. She taught for eighteen years in a variety of professional roles, at a number of schools and colleges in England and Wales, before moving into Higher Education in 2005. She lectured on the Bachelor of Arts Theology and Religious Studies Programme and the PGCE Religious Education Course at University of Wales, Trinity St. David. In 2009 she became Programme Director of the PGCE R.E. Course and subsequently relocated it to Swansea Metropolitan University. For the last two years Lynda has been the Course Leader of the ‘A’ Level Religious Studies and Philosophy Programmes at The College, Merthyr Tydfil. Over the years she has played an active role on Norfolk, Carmarthen, Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil SACRE and represents Further Education on the National Advisory Panel for R.E. She is the External Examiner for the PGCE R.E. Courses at the Universities of Gloucester and York St. John and she has worked as a WJEC examiner at GCSE level for many years.

Lynda is very much looking forward to working with colleagues across Wales and England at this time of significant change for Religious Studies.

Lynda Maddock's Contact Information

Lynda Maddock Subject Officer (GCSE)
☎ 029 2026 5122
✉ lynda.maddock@wjec.co.uk

3 New WJEC GCSE R.S. (Wales) Update

GCSE Religious Studies is being revised for first teaching from 2016. Discussions about the content and assessment format are on-going with the regulator and a draft summary of assessment will be published as soon as possible. Following this a Stage 2 submission will be made to Qualifications Wales at which point the WJEC will publish the draft specification and specimen assessment materials.

Preparing to teach courses

We are holding free preparing to teach courses for our GCSE specifications early in 2016. They will give detailed support as you prepare to teach the qualification and an opportunity to network with subject specialists.

Course Aims: This course is designed for teachers who are preparing to teach the WJEC GCSE Religious Studies specification for first teaching from September 2016.
Each session will:

- cover the specification in-depth including assessment objectives, examination structure and other key areas
- review sample assessment materials and supporting resources
- help you prepare to teach the new qualification
- provide an opportunity for engaging discussion with subject specialists
- provide an opportunity for networking with other teachers in your field
- you will also be provided with a range of course materials which you can take away with you and share with colleagues.

Course Personnel:

The course is led by subject specialists who have in-depth experience and knowledge of the content. They will be subject officers, specification developers, examiners or moderators with a wealth of experience in this field.

'Preparing to Teach' course dates:

**Monday 14th March 2016**  9:30 am - 3:30 pm   Mold  
[Book here](#)

**Wednesday 16th March 2016**  9:30 am - 3:30 pm   Carmarthen  
[Book here](#)

**Friday 18th March 2016**  9:30 am - 3:30 pm   Cardiff  
[Book here](#)

If some of the courses above have closed for online bookings, please email our CPD section at cpd@wjec.co.uk who will do their best to accommodate your request or place you on a reserve list.

Contact Information for GCSE

Lynda Maddock Subject Officer (GCSE)  
☎ 029 2026 5122  
✉️ lynda.maddock@wjec.co.uk

Christopher Barfoot Subject Support Officer (GCSE)  
☎ 029 2026 5094  
✉️ christopher.barfoot@wjec.co.uk
4 New WJEC GCE R.S. (Wales) Update

GCE Religious Studies is being revised for first teaching from 2016. Discussions about the content and assessment format are on-going with the regulator and a draft summary of assessment can be found here. Following this a Stage 2 submission will be made to Qualifications Wales at which point the WJEC will publish the draft specification and specimen assessment materials.

Preparing to teach courses

We are holding free preparing to teach courses for our GCE specifications early in 2016. They will give detailed support as you prepare to teach the qualification and an opportunity to network with subject specialists.

Course Aims: This course is designed for teachers who are preparing to teach the WJEC GCSE Religious Studies specification for first teaching from September 2016.

Each session will:

- cover the specification in-depth including assessment objectives, examination structure and other key areas
- review sample assessment materials and supporting resources
- help you prepare to teach the new qualification
- provide an opportunity for engaging discussion with subject specialists
- provide an opportunity for networking with other teachers in your field
- you will also be provided with a range of course materials which you can take away with you and share with colleagues.

Course Personnel:

The course is led by subject specialists who have in-depth experience and knowledge of the content. They will be subject officers, specification developers, examiners or moderators with a wealth of experience in this field.

'Preparing to Teach' course dates:

Monday 22nd February 2016  9:30 am - 3:30 pm  Mold
Book here

Wednesday 24th February 2016  9:30 am - 3:30 pm  Cardiff
Book here

Friday 26th February 2016  9:30 am - 3:30 pm  Carmarthen
Book here

If some of the courses above have closed for online bookings, please email our CPD section at cpd@wjec.co.uk who will do their best to accommodate your request or place you on a reserve list.
5 Current RS specifications information

WJEC will continue to meet the needs of both Wales and England across the full spectrum of our qualifications. The subject content of the current WJEC specifications will remain up to and including final assessment in Summer 2017.

a Key specification details, dates and support for GCSE specification A and 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.

| Key dates for current GCSE Specification A and B 2016 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Deadline date for GCSE entries                | Sunday      | 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016 |
| Deadline date for Entry amendments (without incurring a charge) | Friday | 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 |
| Publication of Results Summer 2016             | Thursday    | 25th August 2016 |

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 published a complete set of resources for Specification A that can be found on here. There are also new resources being uploaded regularly on our resources website: http://resources.wjec.co.uk/
Full details relating to this specification can be found on the WJEC website by clicking on the link provided here.

Centres are continuing to use the popular resources below that can be found on our bookshop website - http://www.wjec.co.uk/shop/

Hodder and Stoughton have revised their very popular ‘Believing and Living’ (Religion and Life Issues) and ‘Believing and Experiencing’ (Religion and Human Experience).

Hodder have also developed a student work booklet to accompany the above titles. For further details please click here.

Oxford University Press have two publications to support the Specification B Unit 1 – Religion and Life Issues and Unit 2 Religion and Religious Experience. For further details please click here.

Heinemann, part of the Pearson Group have published books to support Specification B, Units 1 (Religion and Life) and Unit 2 (Believing and Experiencing). Heinemann have also produced web based materials as well to support Specification B. For further details please click here.

All of the above endorsed 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.

**b  Summer Series 2015 Feedback PowerPoints**

You can now download feedback PowerPoints on this summer's GCSE examinations which include information on grade boundaries, performance data and extracts from the main examiner reports.

(i) The GCSE Specification A one can be found here.

(ii) The GCSE Specification B one can be found here.
c. GCE Specification support and key dates

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

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.

Illuminate Publishing have also published WJEC AS Religious Studies, Philosophy of Religion and Ethics which has been endorsed by WJEC for use alongside the specification in supporting the teaching of AS Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics.

In addition to this has Illuminate also published a study and revision guide for A2 Philosophy: WJEC A2 Religious Studies, Studies in Philosophy which has also been endorsed by WJEC for use alongside the specification in supporting the teaching of A2 Philosophy of Religion.

For more information on the Illuminate publications, please click here.

Some interesting and relevant articles for candidates can be found in the publication RS Review. Subscriptions can be purchased 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

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

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### Key dates for current GCE AS/A level 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Release of pre-release material for RS4</td>
<td>Monday 11th January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date for GCE entries (Summer Series)</td>
<td>Sunday 21st February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication of Results Summer 2016</td>
<td>Thursday 18th August 2016</td>
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</table>
A 'Feedback' PowerPoint on this summer's GCE AS and A level examinations which include information on grade boundaries, performance data and extracts from the main examiner reports are available on the main WJEC GCE R.S. webpage. Please click the following links for AS and A level:

AS Religious Studies Feedback Presentation Summer 2015

A level Religious Studies Feedback Presentation Summer 2015

7 Entry Level - Key Dates

The key dates for 2016 are given below:

| Deadline date for Entry amendments (without incurring a charge) | Saturday 19th December 2015 |
| Submission of coursework: | Wednesday 4th May 2016 |
| Publication of results: | Thursday 7th July 2016 |

For queries relating to Entry Level Religious Studies, please contact:

Andrew Pearce - Subject Officer
📞 029 2026 5387
✉️ andrew.pearce@wjec.co.uk

8 Entry Pathways - Humanities

The subjects offered under the Humanities Pathways include history, geography, religious studies, humanities and French. These subjects are offered at Entry 2 and Entry 3 only. Centres are 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. Alternatively, 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:

David Drake - Subject Officer
📞 029 2026 5158
✉️ david.drake@wjec.co.uk
9 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.

10 WJEC Secure Site

The WJEC Secure Website can be accessed by authorised staff at centres that work with WJEC. 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. For access details, please see your examinations officer.

11 Exam Results Analysis

WJEC's Exam 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.

You can access Exam Results Analysis from the WJEC Secure Website.

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. The Exam Results Analysis (Powerpoint) can be found here.

12 Online Exam Review

Since 2013, WJEC has offered an Online Exam Review programme. This innovative online, free resource allows teachers to review exemplar scripts in a new and interactive way.

The Online Exam Review provides a service tailored to teachers' specific needs and is available to all 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. 2015 papers will be added shortly.
13 Subscribe to Religious Studies updates

Would you like to subscribe to Religious Studies updates and be kept informed of developments and important information? If so, please enter your details via the website below:

http://newsletter.wjec.co.uk/

Subscribers will automatically be updated about changes and any new resources support available.

14 Follow us on 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 here: @WJEC_RS

15 Useful contacts:

SUBJECT OFFICERS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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☎ 029 2026 5122
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Andrew Pearce, (GCE AS/A level / Entry Level)

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SUBJECT SUPPORT OFFICER FOR GCE AS/A level
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GCSE SECTION
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ENTRIES SECTION
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BOOKSHOP
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✉ caroline.redman@wjec.co.uk

Feedback is always welcome!

Lynda Maddock
WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer

Andrew Pearce
WJEC Religious Studies Subject Officer