



# GCE AS and A level RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

### Summer 2022 only

#### AS Units (both compulsory)

##### Unit 1: An Introduction to the Study of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour 15 mins

37.5% of AS qualification

This unit offers the choice of the study of **one religion** from a **choice of six**:

Option A:	Option B:	Option C:	Option D:	Option E:	Option F:
Christianity	Islam	Judaism	Buddhism	Hinduism	Sikhism

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts (part 1), religious concepts, religious life and religious practices that shape religious identity (part 1).

Note: With one exception, for A level learners, the religion chosen for AS Unit 1 must also be studied for A level Unit 3.

The only exception being that learners who study Unit 1 Option A: Christianity for AS can study either Unit 3 Option A: Christianity or Unit 6: Textual Studies (New Testament) for A level.

##### Unit 2: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour 45 mins

62.5% of AS qualification

###### Section A: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics

This section provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental ethical themes: ethical thought (part 1), Aquinas' Natural Law, Fletcher's Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism.

###### Section B: An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

This section provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental philosophical themes: arguments for the existence of God – inductive, arguments for the existence of God – deductive, challenges to religious belief (part 1) and religious experience (part 1).

## A level Units (based on A2 units only in 2022)

### Learners must study:

Units 3, 4 and 5 or, if they have studied Unit 1 Option A: Christianity, **either** Units 3, 4 and 5 **or** Units 4,5 and 6.

#### Unit 3: A Study of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour 30 mins

33.3% of A level qualification

This unit offers the choice of the study of **one religion** from a **choice of six**:

Option A:	Option B:	Option C:	Option D:	Option E:	Option F:
Christianity	Islam	Judaism	Buddhism	Hinduism	Sikhism

**Learners will be expected to study the same option they studied in Unit 1.**

The only exception being that learners who study Unit 1 Option A: Christianity for AS can study **either** Unit 3 Option A: Christianity **or** Unit 6: Textual Studies (New Testament) for A level.

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of **four** fundamental religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts (part 2), significant historical developments in religious thought, significant social developments in religious thought and religious practices that shape religious identity (part 2).

#### Unit 4: Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 1 hour 30 mins

33.3% of A level qualification

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of **three** fundamental ethical themes: deontological ethics, determinism and freewill.

#### Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour 30 mins

33.3% of A level qualification

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of **three** fundamental philosophical themes: challenges to religious belief (part 2), religious experience (part 2), religious language (**part 1 only**).

#### Unit 6: Textual Studies (New Testament)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 mins

33.3% of A level qualification

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of four fundamental textual study themes relating to New Testament literature: miracles, parables, Letters and Apocalyptic.

This adapted version of GCE Religious Studies is available for entry in **2022 only**.  
Candidates entering the qualification in 2023 should use the approved [specification](#).

## **AS**

### **Unit 1: An Introduction to the Study of Religion (15% weighting)**

- Option A - An Introduction to the Study of Christianity
- Option B - An Introduction to the Study of Islam
- Option C - An Introduction to the Study of Judaism
- Option D - An Introduction to the Study of Buddhism
- Option E - An Introduction to the Study of Hinduism
- Option F - An Introduction to the Study of Sikhism

There are no changes to this unit.

### **Unit 2 (25% weighting) Section A: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics Section B: An Introduction to Philosophy and Religion**

#### **Section A: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics**

Streamline the AO1 content so the following subthemes will not be subject to assessment in 2022:

*Theme 2C: Aquinas' Natural Law: application of the theory*

*Theme 3C: Fletcher's Situation Ethics: application of the theory*

*Theme 4C: Utilitarianism: application of the theories (Act and Rule)*

All the AO2 issues for analysis and evaluation drawn from the content of Themes 1 to 4 within Unit 2a Section A: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics will however continue to be subject to assessment in 2022.

There are no changes to **Section B: An Introduction to Philosophy and Religion**

## **A level**

### **Units 3: A Study of Religion**

Option A – A Study of Christianity

Option B - A Study of Islam

Option C - A Study of Judaism

Option D - A Study of Buddhism

Option E - A Study of Hinduism

Option F - A Study of Sikhism

There are no changes to this unit.

### **Unit 4: A Study of Religion and Ethics**

Streamline the content - Theme 1 in its entirety will not be subject to assessment in 2022.  
Theme 1 consists of:

*Theme 1 Subtheme 1A: Meta-ethical approaches: Naturalism*

*Theme 1 Subtheme 1B: Meta-ethical approaches: Intuitionism*

*Theme 1 Subtheme 1C: Meta-ethical approaches: Emotivism*

and their accompanying AO2 issues for evaluation:

- *Whether ethical and non-ethical statements are the same.*
- *The extent to which ethical statements are not objective.*
- *Whether moral terms are intuitive.*
- *The extent to which moral terms are just expressions of our emotions.*
- *Whether one of Naturalism, Intuitionism or Emotivism is superior to the other theories.*
- *The extent to which the different meta-ethical theories encourage moral debate.*

### **Unit 5: A Study of the Philosophy of Religion**

Streamline the content - Theme 4 in its entirety will not be subject to assessment in 2022.  
Theme 4 consists of:

Theme 4 Subtheme 4A: Religious language as non-cognitive and symbolic

Theme 4 Subtheme 4B: Religious language as non-cognitive and mythical

Theme 4 Subtheme 4C: Religious language as a language game

and their accompanying AO2 issues for evaluation:

- The effectiveness of the terms non-cognitive, analogical and mythical as solutions to the problems of religious language.
- The relevance of religious language issues in the 21st Century.
- The extent to which language games provide a suitable way of resolving the problems of religious language.
- Whether symbolic language can be agreed as having adequate meaning as a form of language.
- How far the works of Randall and Tillich provide a suitable counter-challenge to Logical Positivism.
- Whether the strengths of language games outweigh the weaknesses.

**Unit 6: Textual Studies (New Testament) (20% weighting)**

There are no changes to this unit.

**At both AS and A level, the assessment formats, weightings and timings remain unchanged.**