



JOHN F KENNEDY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

Year 11 Raising Achievement

Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies

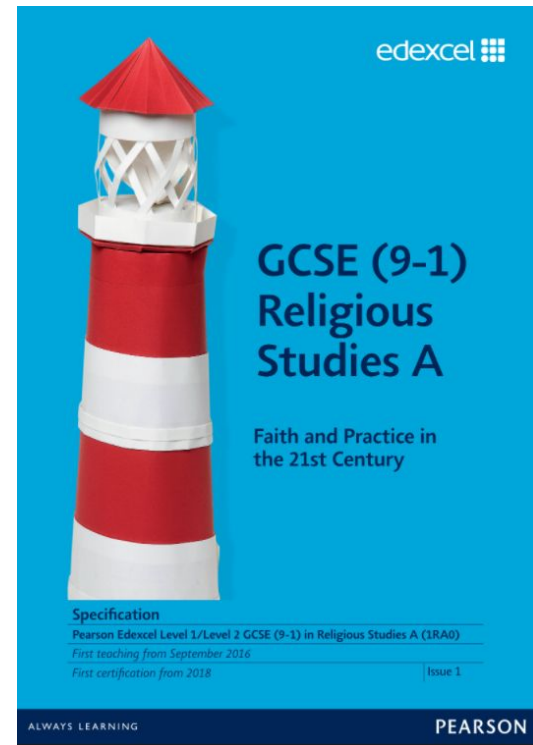
Our chosen exam board is Edexcel - Specification A

The GCSE course covers:

- **Paper 1 – Study of Catholic Christianity**
- **Paper 2 – Study of Judaism**
- **Paper 3 – Philosophy and Ethics**

Each will be assessed by a written exam:

- Students must answer all questions.
- The paper includes short open, open response and extended writing questions.
- The paper will assess spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) and use of specialist terminology



Paper 1

Study of Catholic Christianity



Written examination: 1 hour and 45
minutes

50% of the qualification

Content overview

Students study four content areas:

1.1 Beliefs and Teachings

1.2 Practices

1.3 Sources of Wisdom and Authority

1.4 Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Paper 2

Study of Judaism



Written examination: 50 minutes
25% of the qualification

Content overview

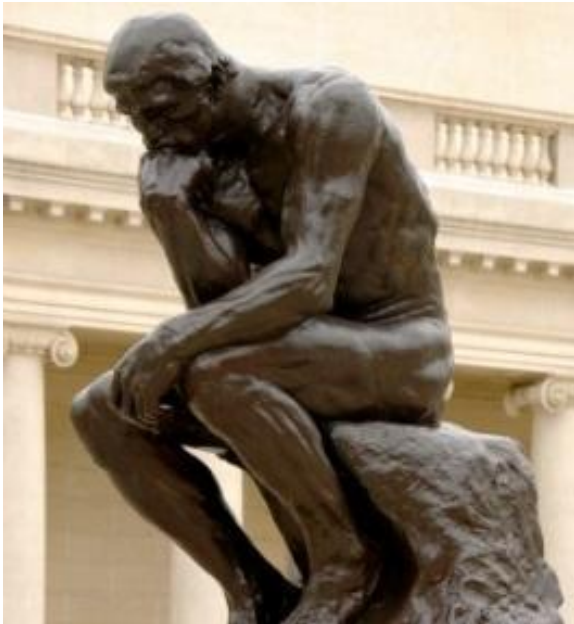
Students study two content areas:

2.1 Beliefs and Teachings

2.2 Practices

Paper 3

Philosophy & Ethics



Written examination: 50 minutes
25% of the qualification

Content overview

Students study two content areas:

3.1 Arguments for the Existence of God

3.2 Relationships and Families in the 21st Century

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies

Top 10 tips for GCSE Religious Studies exams

- 1 Be mindful of time**
Make sure you divide your time equally across the different sections of the exam paper.
- 2 Answer the question**
Focus on the question that is set and ensure all points link to the key words in the question as, off topic material will not be credited.
- 3 Write in full sentences**
All answers (except 'State' questions) must be written in full sentences as, single word answers will limit your marks.
- 4 Write in the space provided below each question**
If you need extra space, use the blank pages and indicate where the rest of your answer can be found (e.g. continued on back page)
- 5 Develop points**
Except for 'Outline' questions, you should add development to points, adding additional detail, quotes or examples, to show understanding.
- 6 Integrate sources of wisdom into your answer**
When using sources of wisdom, ensure they link to the points being made rather than 'tagging' them on at the end of answers.
- 7 Give different views and a conclusion in (d) questions**
These questions will always require you to consider arguments 'for and against' and provide a conclusion.
- 8 Use the question to guide your answer**
The question will state what you need to include in your answer (sources of wisdom, for and against, conclusions etc).
- 9 Appraise the arguments**
You should discuss whether the views and arguments included are valid/convincing in your appraisal, to lead to your overall conclusion.
- 10 Show what you know**
There are no trick questions – the examiner is always looking to positively mark based on what you know.



Remember that exams bring together three key elements:

- Subject Knowledge
- Examination Skills
- Time management

Knowing what the exam board will give marks for, is a key detail

Paper 1: Section 1 - RC Beliefs & Teachings

Paper 1 - Section 1: Catholic Christianity

Beliefs and Teachings

Syllabus for Section 1	
1	The Trinity
2	Biblical understanding of God as a Trinity of Persons
3	Creation: the biblical account and how it is understood
4	The Creation account and Humanity: stewardship and dominion
5	The Incarnation: Incarnate Son & Divine Word
6	The events in the Paschal Mystery: redemptive efficacy
7	The significance of life of Jesus for grace and salvation
8	Catholic beliefs about eschatology: Life after death

The Trinity

Catholics believe that God is one in 3 persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Why belief in the Trinity is important	How the Trinity is shown in Catholic practice today
It states that there is only one God	Catholics bless themselves with the Trinitarian formula
It allows Catholics to understand how God is with them always	Catholics describe all persons of the Trinity in the Nicene Creed
It is a mystery of faith	Catholics are baptised using the Trinitarian formula
Source of Wisdom: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life (Catechism of the Catholic Church)	

Trinity in the Bible

The Trinity is usually shown in the Bible as 3 separate persons - but in the Baptism of Jesus all three persons are shown together - You could also refer to Creation in Genesis 1



What is shown	Why it is important
John the Baptist says he is not worthy to baptise Jesus	It shows that he recognises the divinity of Jesus
God says ' This is my son whom I love'	It shows the presence of God the Father and God the Son
The Spirit descended like a dove	The 3 persons are all able to be present in different forms at the same time
Source of Wisdom: Paraphrase the story of the Baptism - refer to the moment Jesus came out of the water when God spoke and the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove.	

Creation

There are two Bible accounts of Creation in the Old Testament, and a symbolic account in the Prologue of St John's Gospel. Catholics would describe the accounts as myths (contain some truths)

What the accounts teach	Why accounts are myths (metaphorical)	Why some Christians believe the accounts are literal
Genesis 1 - Seven Days of Creation	Science has shown that creation is more likely in other ways	God can do anything - he is all powerful
Genesis 2 - Eve made from Adam's rib	The accounts show the power, love and knowledge of God	The account is not contradictory it provides more detail
John's Gospel- In the beginning was the word	The accounts provide 2 different views (accuracy is questioned)	This is a New Testament understanding giving a different perspective but still true
Source of wisdom: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)		

The Creation account and Humanity

Catholics are taught that God created humans in his image. This shows that God loves humans and can have a relationship with them. It also reveals some of what God is like

What the biblical account says	What it teaches about humanity
Humans were created last	They are the pinnacle of God's creation (most important)
Humans are created in the likeness of God	They show some of the characteristics that God has
Humans are stewards of the world	They do God's work on earth
Source of Wisdom: ' God said let us make mankind in our image' Genesis 1	

The Incarnation

The Incarnation is the Christian belief that Jesus is God as a human being - God in the flesh living as a human would feeling all that humans do



Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God incarnate	Why the Incarnation is important for Catholics
The virgin birth records that Jesus is the Son of God	It means Jesus is fully God and fully man
John's Gospel explains that Jesus is the Divine Word	It means that God as Jesus can understand humanity
Jesus was able to work miracles - something only God can do	It means that God was able to make the sacrifice that was needed to save humans from sin (salvation)
Source of wisdom: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the word was God (John 1:1) - or paraphrase the Nativity Story	

Key words

Ascension	Jesus ascended into heaven
Redemptive efficacy	Jesus is the best (most effective) way for humans to receive salvation
Salvation	Being saved from sin
Literal	Understood /Believe exactly as it is written
Metaphorical	Symbolic / Used to give a truthful meaning

The events in the Paschal Mystery

The Paschal Mystery is the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus.



What events are in the Paschal Mystery (think about Holy Week)	Why is the Paschal Mystery important for Catholics
The arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane	It shows that Jesus came to save us from sin
The Trial of Jesus	It shows the humanity of Jesus
The crucifixion	It shows the divinity of Jesus

Source of wisdom: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day (Creed)

The significance of the life of Jesus for grace and salvation

Salvation is being saved from sin - by God's grace - his undeserved love

Feature of life of Jesus	What it shows about grace	What it shows about salvation
His teachings	He taught to love thy neighbour	We need to love one another to be saved
His death	The crucifixion shows love and sacrifice	He was willing to die to save us from sin
His resurrection	Shows we will be with God	Shows God's love- he want us to be with him
Source of Wisdom: There is salvation in no one else (Acts)		

Catholic beliefs about eschatology

Eschatology is the study of the events that happen after death



What Catholics believe	Why this belief is important
Good people go to heaven	Christians will follow Jesus' teachings to get to heaven - reward
Bad people go to hell	There is justice for those who do wrong - punishment
Those with unforgiven sins go to purgatory	There is hope for all - we pray for those who have died
Source of Wisdom: I am the resurrection and the life (John 11)	

Paper 1 - Section 2: Catholic Christianity

Practices

Syllabus for Section 2	
1	The Sacramental nature of reality: 7 sacraments
2	Liturgical worship in Catholic Christianity: The Mass, Eucharist
3	The Funeral Rite : in the home, church and cemetery
4	Prayer: Lords prayer, set and informal
5	Popular piety: Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross
6	Pilgrimage : Jerusalem, Rome, Lourdes, Walsingham
7	Catholic Social teaching: Love of neighbour, CAFOD, inclusion of the poor in society
8	Catholic mission and evangelism: The great commission

The Sacramental nature of reality

Catholics believe that sacraments are an outward sign of an inward gift of grace from God.



Types of sacraments	Why the sacraments are important
Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation	Each gives grace from God to support a person
Sacraments of vocation: Marriage, Holy orders	They unite a person more deeply with God
Sacraments of healing: Reconciliation, Sacrament of the sick	They bring a person closer to salvation

Source of Wisdom:
We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity
The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life
(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Liturgical worship

This is worship that takes place in a church community and has a set service usually recorded in a book so people can follow it eg Mass, sacraments



Why liturgical worship is important for Catholics	Why some Christians may prefer less structured worship
People know what is going to happen and can easily take part	It means the worship is more personal
They are traditional - the worship is in line with Church teaching	It means worship can be more easily linked to the current situation
It has been developed to help the participants feel close to God	It allows participants to join in whenever they wish

Source of Wisdom:
The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life (Catechism)

The Funeral Rite

The funeral rite is a liturgy marking a person's life, giving comfort and reminding all present that there is hope of eternal life



The vigil	The funeral rite in the church	The funeral rite in the cemetery
It helps people come to terms with their loss	It involves readings about eternal life	It shows care for the deceased
This can be in the home or the church	The community gives comfort to the family	It provides time to bless the body
It allows people personal time with the deceased	It is usually part of a Mass, when the soul is prayed for	It reminds people they have gone to be with God

Source of wisdom: May the angels lead you to paradise (Blessing in Mass)

Prayer

Prayer is the raising of hearts and minds to God. It is communication with God and can include adoration, thanksgiving, confession and intercession.



Why set prayer eg Lord's Prayer is important for Catholics	Why informal / extempore prayer is important
It means they can share prayer with others	It means the prayer is personal
It means that they are using traditional prayers	The prayers are not limited by words chosen by others
It means they can feel close to God	It means you can pray in private

Source of Wisdom: The Our Father / The Hail Mary - use prayers you know

Popular Piety

Ways of praying inspired by the culture and tradition of people rather than the liturgy of the Church



Why the Rosary is important	Why Stations of the Cross are important	Why Eucharistic Adoration is important
It provides structured meditative prayer	It reminds Catholics of the suffering of Jesus	It allows people to meditate upon the Body of Christ
It reminds them of the Mysteries - events in Jesus life	It is a structured service completed in community with others	It brings people into the presence of Christ
It enables them to ask Mary to pray for them	They are visual reminders people can reflect upon in church	It also personal adoration and prayer

Source of wisdom:
Christian life is nourished by various forms of popular piety (Catechism)

Key words

Worship	An act of religious devotion towards God
Intercession	Saying a prayer on behalf of another
Mass	A Catholic liturgy of Bible readings and the Eucharist
Justice	Acting in a morally correct or fair manner

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a journey to place where a Christian event has taken place - eg Rome, Jerusalem, Walsingham & Lourdes - they have taken place since mediaeval times



Why pilgrimage is important	Why pilgrimage is not important
It is a time to reflect on the events that took place there	A Christian can pray anywhere
It is a time to join in worship with other Christians	A pilgrimage may be very expensive
It is an opportunity to grow / take part in a journey if faith	A pilgrimage may become holiday like if there is no focus on faith

Source of wisdom: Pilgrimages lead to the tent of meeting with the Word of God. (John Paul II)

Catholic Social teaching

This is Catholic belief that there is inherent human dignity that must be respected and that Catholics should work for the common good of all



Why CST is important	Why CST is not important	CAFOD What it does
It supports justice for the individual	It is perceived as political involvement	Works overseas to relieve poverty
It ensures justice in the community	Governments should work for justice	Helps build wells to provide water
It makes sure human rights are protected	Religion should only be religious	Builds school for education

Source of wisdom: Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark's gospel)

Mission and Evangelisation

Mission is going into the world to share your faith with others. Evangelisation is the aim to convert people to Christianity, they are closely linked

Why mission and evangelisation is important	Why mission and evangelisation is not important
It spreads the good news of Christianity to the world	People can spread the word locally mission is not needed
It helps people discover faith	It could be seen as disrespectful
It shows devotion to God	Forcing belief is not possible

Source of wisdom:
Go and make disciples of all nations (Great commission)

Paper 1: Section 2 - RC Practices

Paper 1: Section 3 - Sources of Wisdom & Authority

Paper 1 - Section 3: Catholic Christianity

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Syllabus for Section 3	
1	The Bible
2	Interpretations of the Bible
3	The Magisterium of the Church
4	The Second Vatican Council
5	The Church as the Body of Christ & People of God
6	The meaning of the Four Marks of the Church
7	Mary as a model of the Church
8	Sources of personal and ethical decision making

The Bible




The Bible is a source of wisdom used by Catholics. The writings are referred to as the Holy Scriptures, it is the revealed word of God they are used in Mass and in Bible study groups as well for personal guidance



Origins and structure	Why the Bible has authority
It contains 73 books: 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament	It is inspired by the Holy Spirit
Catholics believe the Bible was inspired by God	It reveals God- the writings show what God is like
The New Testament includes the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Letters written to the Early Church and Revelations	It contains the teachings of God and life of Jesus - both show how to live a good life
Source of Wisdom: God inspired the human authors of the sacred books (Catechism)	

Interpretations of the Bible

Fundamentalist - Accept the Bible literally
Catholic - The Bible is inspired by God
Liberal - The Bible is written by humans to help others understand God

Fundamentalist	Catholic	Liberal
		
Every word in the Bible is true-	God inspired the human writers	The Bible is written by humans
The Bible describes exactly what happened	The scriptures teach the truth about God	The scriptures provide spiritual guidance
Creation occurred as it is described	We must open our minds to fully understand the message of the Bible	The words of the Bible may not be relevant today
Source of Wisdom: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm - Old Testament)		

The Magisterium of the Church

The magisterium is the teaching office of the Church the people in the magisterium are the Pope and the bishops



What the magisterium does	Why it is important
It forms the teachings of the Church	It ensures that all Catholics believe the same
It shares the teachings of the Church about issues in the modern world	The Bible does not have teachings about everything so it keeps the faith up to date
It interprets the Bible	Explains what the Bible means for Catholic life
Source of wisdom: The magisterium is not superior to the word of God (Catechism)	

The Second Vatican Council

This Council of the Church took place 1962-65. It was a gathering of the magisterium and it aimed to bring the Church up to date 'aggiornamento'. The 4 main documents were: Dei Verbum, Lumen Gentium, Sacrosanctum Concilium and Gaudium et Spes.



Changes it brought in	Why it was important
Lay people were allowed greater roles described as the 'common priesthood'	It opened the Church to other religions- they could observe
The Mass was changed from Latin to the local language - vernacular	It discussed important issues - stressing justice
It stressed that both the Bible and the Church tradition are the word of God	It stressed that all Catholics have a role to play in the Church
Source of Wisdom: Christ's faithful... should not be there as strangers or silent spectators (Sacrosanctum Concilium)	

The Church

The Church is the community of all Catholics. In order to try and describe its nature it is given two names

1) Body of Christ 2) People of God



Why do Catholics believe the Church is the Body of Christ?	Why do Catholics believe the Church is the People of God?
All the people in the Church are different like part of the body	They are a collection of people all blessed by God
All the people work together in the Church like parts of a body	The Church as people of God shows we all share a common faith
The body of the Church do the work of Jesus - they are his body on earth	The people of God are all baptised people - they have God's grace
Source of wisdom: We... are one body in Christ (Romans)	

Key words

Vernacular:	The language of the country you are living in
Golden Rule	Do to others what you want them to do to you
Immaculate conception	Mary was conceived without sin
Apostolic	Based on the teachings of the 12 apostles
Pontifical	Linked to the work of the Pope

The Four Marks of the Church

The Four Marks of the Church describe what the Church is like



Why is it One	Why is it Holy	Why is it Catholic?	Why is it Apostolic
It is based on one God	It belongs to God	It is universal	It was founded by the apostles
All are baptised	God made the Church	The message of God is for all	It teaches the same as the apostles
All Christians share faith	The Church is inspired by God	The are Christians all over the world	The authority of St Peter is passed to it
Source of wisdom: Make disciples of all nations (Matthew)			

Mary as a Model of the Church

Mary is described as an example or Model of how we should all behave (individually and collectively)



Mary as a model of Discipleship	Mary as a model of Faith and Charity	Mary as a model of the Church
She obeyed God	She trusted God	Jesus lived in her
She loved Jesus	She obeyed God	She loved Jesus
She is the Immaculate Conception	She believed Jesus was God's Son	She gave Jesus to the world
Source of wisdom: The Hail Mary - use any line		

Sources of personal and ethical decision making

These are the four sources of guidance Catholics may use to make decisions



Jesus	Natural Law	Conscience	Virtue
He is God	It is given by God	It is given by God	It is inside us
He taught	Laws are universal	It is inside us	It is given by God
He was the fulfillment of the law	Some things are always wrong	It can be used easily	It is habit to do good
Source of wisdom: Do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew)			

Paper 1 - Section 4: Catholic Christianity

Forms of expression and ways of life

Syllabus for Section 4

1	Architecture and design of Catholic churches
2	Internal features of a church
3	Sacred objects and sacred vessels
4	The significance of paintings, fresco and drawings
5	The significance of sculpture and statues
6	The purpose and use of symbolism and imagery in religious art
7	The meaning and significance of religious drama
8	The nature and use of music in worship

Architecture of Catholic churches

The shape of a church contains lots of symbolism and the design will help a Christian worship. The age of a church can often be discerned by the style of architecture used. Eg Gothic churches were often built in the Middle Ages.



Architectural feature	Why it is important
Cruciform shape (cross)	It is a reminder of the cross on which Jesus died - It is often used for side altars
Spire	Points up to the heavens - reminder that payers are going to God. Creates awe and wonder
Altar faces Jerusalem (East in UK)	Pointing to where Jesus died - A reminder of the death and resurrection
Source of Wisdom: Sacred art draws man to adoration (Catechism)	

Internal features of a church

These are the parts of the inside of the church that have a symbolic and practical purpose. They are not usually removed from the church but are part of the church. The three you need to know about are the altar, the crucifix and the tabernacle.



Feature	Why it is important
Altar	Focal point -The table of sacrifice - reminder of the Last Supper - practically it is where the Eucharist is prepared
Crucifix	Focus of prayer - reminder of the crucifixion - sacrifice of Jesus to save us from our sins
Tabernacle	Container for the consecrated hosts - when hosts are inside there is a red light lit next to the tabernacle - it is a reminder of the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem.
Source of Wisdom: The tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church (Catechism)	

Sacred objects and sacred vessels

These are objects which can be moved around and taken out of the church. The sacred vessels are those that hold the Body and Blood of Christ at some point.



Object	Why it is important
Censer and Boat	These are used to incense the altar during the most sacred parts of the Mass. Incense reminds us that our prayers go up to God
Chalice	Holds the wine which after transubstantiation becomes the Blood of Christ. It is a reminder of the Last Supper
Ciborium	Holds the hosts which after transubstantiation become the Body of Christ. It is a reminder of the Last Supper
Source of Wisdom: Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them (Matthew 26)	

The significance of paintings, fresco and drawings

We studied Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) and Christ of St John by Dali. Each contains symbolism to teach and inspire faith



Feature	Why it is significant
OLPH - wearing red and blue	As a reminder of motherhood and virginity
OLPH- archangels holding items	Symbolic of the way Jesus will die
Christ - Looking down onto Jesus	God's view of his son dying
Christ - Jesus forms a triangle	A reminder of the Trinity
Source of Wisdom: Sacred art is true and beautiful (Catechism)	

The significance of sculpture and statues

We studied La Pietà., but you can use any statue as an example. 1)They fill the viewer with awe and wonder, leading to faith. 2)They show the viewer the faith and beliefs of the artist. 3) They teach about the faith



Feature	Why it is significant
Jesus on Mary's lap	In the same position as when he was a baby
Mary's face	Sad, suffering because of the death of her child
Jesus body	Smooth, perfect (not realistic)
Source of wisdom: Art is a form of practical wisdom (Catechism)	

The purpose and use of symbolism in religious art

These are used to represent religious ideas and beliefs in a way that does not require words. They quickly communicate difficult concepts.

Symbol	What it symbolises
Cross	The empty cross - the resurrection of Jesus
Crucifix	The sacrifice of Jesus / salvation for humanity
Fish (Ichthus)	Used to identify Christians by early Christians
Chi Rho	First 2 letters of Greek Christ
Dove	Holy Spirit / Purity/Hope/Freedom
Eagle	Salvation / strength/ spreading the word of God
Alpha/Omega	The beginning and the end / eternity
Symbols of the 4 evangelists	Winged creatures(Ox, Lion, Eagle, Man) - each linked to an evangelist - wings -spread the word
Source of wisdom: It is a matter of evoking what is beyond words (Catechism)	

The meaning and significance of religious drama

Dramas such as Passion Plays and Mystery Plays can be used to teach/reveal the faith - to others and to inspire faith in the viewer and the participants. They can cause an emotional understanding of the events portrayed in the drama



Type of Drama	Why it is significant
Passion play	They teach the events of Jesus' journey to the cross They explain that Jesus died for our salvation
Mystery Plays	They teach passages from the Bible eg Creation They pass information on to those who may learn more easily using drama eg children
Source of Wisdom: The most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being (Oscar Wilde)	

The nature and use of music in worship

Music can engage the emotions, express the Holy Spirit, teach religious beliefs and encourage unity in singing



Type of music	Why it is significant
Hymns	May be traditional, teach religion, join the congregation
Plainchant	Used by monks, an emotional form of worship
Psalms	Part of the mass, join congregation together in worship
Worship songs	Energetic, repeats beliefs to encourage faith
Source of wisdom: He who sings prays twice (Catechism / St Augustine)	

Paper 1: Section 4 - Forms of Expression & Ways of Life

Paper 2: Section 1 - Jewish Beliefs & Teachings

Paper 2 - Section 1: Judaism

Beliefs and Teachings

Syllabus for Section 1

1	The nature of the Almighty
2	The nature and importance of Shekhinah
3	The nature and purpose of the Messiah
4	The Covenant at Sinai
5	The covenant with Abraham
6	Sanctity of life
7	The significance of life of Jesus for grace and salvation
8	Jewish beliefs about life after death

The nature of the Almighty

Jews believe that there is one God- they are monotheistic, they do not say/write the name of God but describe God as Ha'Shem (the name)



The nature of the Almighty	Why is this important
The Almighty is One	Jews worship one God, no idol worship
The Almighty is the Creator	The world and all life is made by the Almighty God's creation is good
The Almighty is Judge	All a Jew's actions will be judged by <u>Ha'Shem</u> God will treat people fairly
The Almighty is law-giver	They were given the Mitzvot to follow in life Laws protect people from chaos
Source of Wisdom: The Lord our God, the Lord is one (Shema)	

The nature and importance of Shekhinah

Shekhinah is the divine presence - as shown in the burning bush, the pillars of dust leading Moses in the desert, the Ark of the Covenant
Reform Jews say it shows the feminine side of God



The nature of Shekhinah	Why it is important
Presence of God	Some Jews feel this is a way to explain that God is always with them. Reform
Cannot be described	Orthodox Jews think it is a link between the Almighty and the world
Awe inspiring	It shows that Jews must show respect for God and that God can enter their lives at any time
Source of Wisdom: Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because the Lord descended on it in fire (Exodus)	

The nature and purpose of the Messiah

Most Jews believe the Messiah is a man not a God. The word 'messiah' means anointed one and refers to the Kings of the Old Testament
There are many different beliefs about the Messiah



Beliefs about the Messianic Age	Orthodox views about the Messiah	Reform views about the Messiah
All live in peace	He will come when all mitzvot are kept	The Messiah may not be human
All people will worship God	He will give back the promised land	They focus on the Messianic age not the Messiah
The Temple will be rebuilt	Everyone will be resurrected and receive a spiritual body	Humans can bring about the Messianic age by working together
Source of wisdom: I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah (Maimonides - 13 Principles)		

The Covenant at Sinai

The Covenant with Sinai was made on Mount Sinai between God and Moses, it was when he gave Moses and the Jews the Ten Commandments - and the rest of the mitzvot



What happened in the Covenant	Why the Covenant is important to Jews
Moses was given the Decalogue	It provides the mitzvot - which all Jews aim to keep
It was given on 2 tablets of stone	The covenant needs to be kept forever
Moses explained it to the Jews	The Jewish people accepted the covenant relationship with God
Source of Wisdom: You will be for me a kingdom of priests and holy people (Exodus)	

The Covenant with Abraham

This was the Covenant which began monotheism. God made a Covenant with Abraham that he would have as many descendants as stars in the sky if he placed his faith in God.



What happened in the Covenant	Why the Covenant is important
God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham	Jews believe Israel is the promised land
God promised Abraham many descendants	All Jews regard themselves as descendants of Abraham
Abraham circumcised his son	All males are circumcised when they are 8 days old
Source of wisdom: I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great (Genesis)	

Key words

Monotheism	Belief in one God
Covenant	Promise (between God and humans)
Gan Eden	Heaven
Gehinnom	Hell
Pikuach Nefesh	Saving a life is more important than other mitzvot

Sanctity of life

Jews believe life is God given and sacred - it is permissible to break Jewish laws to save a life (Pikuach Nefesh)



What Jews are taught about the sanctity of life	Why sanctity of life is important for Jews
God all made life so it is holy	They show respect to all human life
Life should be protected	They can break mitzvot to protect life - this is the principle of pikuach nefesh
Only God can end life	Euthanasia and abortion are not allowed
Source of wisdom: I put to death and I bring to life (Deuteronomy)	

Moral principles and the Mitzvot

There are 613 Mitzvot, these are the commandments that God gave Moses - they are part of the mosaic covenant and they teach Jews how to live.



What it mitzvot teach Jews	Why Mitzvot are important
They must obey God	All the mitzvot teach Jews how to live
They teach how to behave	They show how to treat others (and God)
They show what it is important in life	Because of free-will Jews can choose whether to obey them or not
Source of Wisdom: Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. (Leviticus)	

Jewish beliefs about life after death

Eschatology is the study of the events that happen after death. All Jews think that what happens on this earth is important and impacts life after death.



What Jews believe	Why this belief is important
Most believe in resurrection	Jews feel there is the world to come - they call this <u>olam ha'ba</u>
Many believe in heaven and hell	Jews will go there depending on actions in life
Some believe life here is more important	Because it is not clear what happens after death - they focus on Jewish life
Source of Wisdom: There will be a resurrection of the dead (Maimonides - 13 Principles)	

Paper 2: Section 2 - Jewish Practices

Paper 2 - Section 2: Judaism

Practices

Syllabus for Section 2

1	The nature and purpose of Jewish public acts of worship
2	The Tenakh and the Talmud
3	The nature and purpose of prayer in the home and of private prayer
4	The nature and importance of the Shema and the Amidah
5	The importance of ritual for Jews today
6	The nature, features, history and purpose of celebrating Shabbat
7	Jewish festivals
8	Features of the synagogue

The nature and purpose of Jewish public acts of worship



Nature of Jewish public worship	Reason it is important
Three services in synagogue daily	Fulfills a mitzvot
Minyan must be present for public worship	Opportunity to share faith
Services include the Shema and Amidah	Time to strengthen faith

Source of Wisdom:
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people
Psalm 116

The Tenakh and the Talmud

Tenakh consists of the Torah AND Prophets AND holy writings - The Jewish holy scriptures
Talmud is a collection of oral law and other Jewish writing to explain the Jewish faith



Why are they needed	How do they affect Jews
The Tenakh is regarded as God's words by Orthodox Jews	They keep all the laws (Halakha) - kosher vs Treif
The Talmud explains Jewish rules	All Jews know clearly how to behave
The writings are used in worship	The Torah is read in all synagogue services

Source of Wisdom:
Great is study of the Torah when combined with worldly occupation
Pirkei Avot

The nature and purpose of prayer in the home and of private prayer

Praying in the home can be done personally or with family
A mezuza on the



Nature of Prayer in the Home	Purpose of Prayer in the Home
Prayer should happen on waking	Reminder of God on waking
Worship should be part of daily life	Prayer is integral to life
Prayer said before and after eating	Reminder to thank God
Source of wisdom: Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads Deuteronomy	

The nature and importance of the Shema and the Amidah

Shema is a statement of faith, that there is only one God, it is used everytime Jews Pray
The Amidah is the standing prayer



Nature	Importance
Set prayers	Joins all Jews together
Dating back to early Judaism	Reminder of monotheism
Recited at every service	All Jews can say them
Source of Wisdom: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one Deuteronomy	

The importance of ritual for Jews today

Rituals are those celebrations that mark important events in a Jews life. They are rites of passage celebrated by the whole community

Ritual	What it celebrates	Why it is important
Brit/Bat Milah	Birth	Circumcision of boys is a mitzvot
Brit /Bar Mitzvah	Coming of Age	Its shows that the Jew is an adult
Marriage	Joining of a couple	It is the beginning of a new family
Mourning rituals	Mark a person's death	They comfort the family

Source of wisdom:
Isaac was 8 days old Abraham circumcised him as God commanded
Genesis

Key words

Sidra	Part of the Torah read on Shabbat morning service
Shabbat	Sabbath Day
Torah	First 5 books of Moses
Halakhah	The laws of Judaism

The nature, features, history and purpose of celebrating Shabbat

Shabbat is the Sabbath day - it is celebrated in the synagogue and the home
The celebration of Shabbat is commanded in the Ten Commandments

How celebrated in the home	How celebrated in the synagogue
The mother lights candles - this welcomes the Sabbath	Synagogues hold special shabbat prayers - to welcome the sabbath
The father blesses the children - to show the importance of family	Kiddush prayers are recited - to thank God for the Sabbath
Source of wisdom: Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy Exodus	

Jewish festivals

These are annual celebrations that occur at a similar time each year.
The days of awe - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
Harvest festivals - Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot

Festival	What it celebrates	Why it is important
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish New Year	New beginnings / resolutions
Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement	Confession of sins / new starts
Pesach	Passover/ Freedom	Remember history / free from Egypt
Shavuot	Harvest festival	Thanking God for harvest and the Torah (50 days after Pesach)
Sukkot	End of the harvest	Marks freedom from Egypt - build huts

Source of wisdom:
The Lord said to Moses, the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement
Leviticus

Features of the synagogue

The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship
Liberal and Orthodox synagogues have different features



Feature	Importance
Seat male and females apart in Orthodox synagogues	No distractions - can concentrate on worship
Ark contains Torah scrolls	Mosaic (Moses) writing - mitzvot affect all features of life
Ner tamid above the Ark	Commanded in Exodus - seen in the Temple
Bimah	A platform where the Torah is read
Yad	A pointer to help read the Torah
Menorah	Seven branch candlestick - reminder of temple candles

Source of wisdom:
The curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law
Exodus

Paper 3: Section 1 - Arguments for the Existence of God (Philosophy)

Paper 3 - Section 1:

Arguments for the Existence of God

Syllabus for Section 1	
1	Revelation as proof of the existence of God: the significance of Jesus Christ
2	Visions as proof of the existence of God: biblical and non-biblical examples of visions
3	Miracles as proof of the existence of God: biblical and non-biblical examples of miracles
4	Religious experiences and its use as a philosophical argument for the existence of God
5	The classical design argument for the existence of God
6	The cosmological argument for the existence of God
7	Issues raised by the existence of suffering and God as all-loving
8	The solutions offered to the problem of suffering and a loving and righteous God

Revelation through Jesus

The Church teaches that Jesus is the culmination of God's revelation (the end and complete revelation) to people. This is because Jesus is God



Why is Jesus the culmination of God's revelation?	What does Jesus show about God?
Jesus can show us what God is like	Jesus shows God is powerful (miracles)
Jesus is the Son of God	Jesus shows God's love
Jesus is divine thus has God's characteristics	Jesus shows that God knows everything (prophecy)

Religious experiences / Visions

Things that make a person feel that they have been in contact with God in some way - e.g. miracles, **visions**, answered prayer



Why they lead to belief in God	Why some are rejected by the Church
It gives the person personal proof	People may be proven to lie
It is logical that a creator God would want to communicate with his creation	If the experience does not agree with Catholic teaching
They change a person's life	If the person seems to be seeking fame

Miracles

A miracle is an event that goes against the laws of nature that only God could have done

Biblical: Burning bush/ healings/nature miracles

Non biblical: Visions of Our Lady in Lourdes / Healing of Peadar Clarke

Why do miracles lead to belief in God?	Why might non-religious people say miracles do not prove God exists?
A miracle can only be worked by God and so he must exist	Miracles in the Bible are just exaggerated stories
A God who loves his people would want to help them by working miracles	Miracles could be a coincidence rather than the work of God
Too many have been attributed to God for them to be untrue	Miracles might be explained by science in the future

Design argument

This argument is that the world must have a designer as everything has a designer. The designer of the world need to be eternal, omnipotent and omniscient, therefore it must be God



Why the design argument might prove the existence of God	Why the design argument might not prove the existence of God
Everything in the world needs a designer - God is eternal the only designer	The world is not designed well there are problems in the world like Tsunamis
God is the only being powerful/knowing enough to be able to design the world	The world is not designed. It is made like this by chance
The world is too complex to have happened by chance, God must have designed it	The world was created by the Big Bang, it does not have a designer
Source of wisdom: William Paley - explained the world is like a watch it is complex and has a purpose, the watch requires as designer so the world must also need a designer	

Cosmological argument

This argument explains that everything has a cause. Everything is changing and everything is contingent. The world needs a first cause and this must be God as only God is eternal - not contingent and all knowing and all powerful

Why the cosmological argument might prove the existence of God	Why the cosmological argument might not prove the existence of God
Everything in the world needs a First Cause - only God can be the first cause as God is eternal	The world is not designed well; there are problems in the world like Tsunamis
God is the only being powerful enough to be able to cause the world	The world is not caused, it comes about by chance
The world is contingent. It must be created by a non-contingent being - God	The world could be infinite, caused by Big Bang and Big Crunch not God
Source of wisdom: Aquinas Five ways (3Cs) Cause Change and Contingency	

Key words

Revelation	An unknown idea being explained to others
Culmination	The highest point of something
Nature of God	What God is like (characteristics)
Visions	Something seen or dreamt that reveals God
Miracles	Something that goes against the laws of science and only God could have done
Religious Experience	An occurrence that brings the person into contact with God
Atheist	Someone who does not believe in God
Design argument	Proof of the existence of God based on the idea that God is the <u>designer</u> of the world
Cosmological argument	Proof of the existence of God based on the idea that God is the <u>cause</u> of the world

The problem of evil and suffering

What is natural evil?	Evil that is caused by natural occurrences e.g. volcanoes and earthquakes
What is moral evil?	Evil that is caused by humans e.g. murder and theft
Explain the problem of evil	Catholics believe God is omnipotent, Benevolent and omniscient so he should be able to end suffering- but he doesn't so possibly he does not have power, doesn't love us or doesn't know

Solutions to the problem of evil

Practical	Theoretical	Biblical
Charity work - doing work that helps those suffering	Free Will argument - St Augustine said humans misuse free will and cause suffering	Job - suffered-teaching people to have faith in God and never lose faith
Prayer- praying for the relief of suffering	Soulmaking -Irenaeus said humans are imperfect and can use Free will to do good and become more perfect	Psalms 119 - teaches that the people should obey God's laws and recognise God is all powerful

Issues with the solutions to the problem of evil

Practical	Theoretical	Biblical
People then rely on charity	Based on Genesis. Seen as out of date	Doesn't solve the issue
Prayer has no action	Arguably free will is not really free	Difficult to believe when God does nothing

Paper 3 - Section 2:

Religious teachings on relationships

Syllabus for Section 2

1	The importance and purpose of marriage: Marriage in Catholic life, non-religious views, marriage in society.
2	Catholic teachings about the importance of sexual relationships: non-religious views sex outside marriage, same sex relationships
3	Purpose and importance of the family: procreation, security and education. Types of families.
4	Support for the family in the local parish
5	Catholic teaching on family planning and contraception: Natural & artificial contraception. Non-religious views
6	Catholic teaching about divorce, annulment and remarriage
7	Catholic teaching about the equality of men and women in the family: dignity of work in the family
8	Catholic teaching about gender prejudice and discrimination: role of women in the Church, divergent Christian attitudes

Marriage

The Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament established by God, to bless a life-long relationship.



Why marriage is regarded as important	Why marriage is not regarded as important
Marriage is holy - it is a sacrament	Some non-religious think cohabitation is acceptable
Marriage is a sign to the community of your commitment	Many non-religious think that in today's society there is no need to have a religious ceremony
Marriage is 'Not just Good but Beautiful' - Pope Francis	Marriages can be perceived as a waste of money

Sexual relationships

Catholics are taught that sexual relationships should be marital, unitive & procreative.



Catholic view of sexual relationships	Why the Church will reject sex outside marriage including same sex sexual relationships
Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed and unite the couple	All sexual activity should be open to the possibility of procreation
Sex is intended to bring new life into the world	Sexual activity outside marriage is rejected in the Catechism
Sexual activity strengthens a married couples relationship	Sex outside marriage may not be faithful - as intended by God
Source of wisdom: The sexual act must always take place exclusively within marriage (Catechism of the Catholic Church)	

Family

The family is the basic unit of society where children are raised safely and educated in the faith. Families can be nuclear, extended, blended, same sex or single parent. The Catholic Church prefers those that are nuclear or extended



Why is the family important?	Why may the Church not approve of some family types?
It means children are raised in a secure environment	Families should be headed by a married husband and wife
It is where children learn right from wrong	Families need to be raised within a marital union
It was intended by God - following the example of the Holy Family	Trial marriages ignore the dignity of the couple
Source of wisdom: Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray (Catechism of the Catholic Church)	

Support in the parish

The parish will help families by providing social, personal and educational help for families. Helping the family stay together and grow in the faith.



What the parish does to help families	Why the parish tries to help families
They may organise family worship opportunities (children's liturgy)	They want to help family strengthen in security
It will run sacramental preparation classes eg for Confirmation	They want to help educate children in the faith
It may run family counselling sessions	They have a duty to support families raising children as Catholics
Source of wisdom: Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years (Catechism of the Catholic Church)	

Family planning

The Church teaches that sexual relationships should be open to the possibility of procreation. They also teach that a couple should be responsible parents. They accept natural family planning but not artificial contraception



Why natural family planning is acceptable	Why artificial contraception is not acceptable
It requires the couple to be in a stable and trusting relationship	These methods are not natural and interfere with how God intended the body to function
It works with the natural cycle of the woman's body - they do not separate the unitive and procreative parts of sex	Some of these methods allow conception to take place and therefore end life after it has begun
It regulates the number of children a couple has protecting the standard of living of the family	Some believe that this has meant that humans have taken what is God's role - to decide when life is created
Source of wisdom: Children are really the supreme gift of marriage (Humanae Vitae)	

Key words

Sacrament	An outward sign of inward grace - rite of passage
Marital	Linked to marriage
Procreative	Creating a new life
Extended family	A family with extra members of the family as well as the nuclear family
Contraception	A method used to prevent the conception of a baby

Divorce

Divorce is when the state ends the marriage of a couple, the couple remain married in the eyes of God and thus remarriage is not possible. Annulment is a Church process which declares that the marriage was not valid one and thus remarriage is allowed



Why Catholics do not approve of divorce	Why non-religious people allow divorce
Jesus taught it is wrong	The marriage may have failed
Marriage is a sacrament given by God	Divorce may be the most loving action
Source: Marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power (Catechism)	



Equality of men and women in the family

The Church teaches that men and women are equal in the family however they may have different roles

Catholic teachings	Other Christians teachings
God created both man and woman to be together in marriage and thus equal in marriage	Evangelical Christians say men and women have different roles and men have more authority than women
Pope Francis said men and women are equal in the family and in society	Most protestants teach that men and women should have the same and equal roles to each other
Source of wisdom: Family is the original cell of human life (Catechism)	

Gender prejudice and discrimination

The Church teaches against gender prejudice and discrimination, but maintains there are leadership roles in the Church that only men can do, eg priest



Why discrimination is wrong	Why women cannot be priests
God created all people to be unique and have dignity	He role of a priest is to represent Jesus in the Mass - Jesus was a man
Discrimination of any type is sinful	Jesus chose men to be his apostles even though he had women disciples
Source of wisdom: You are all one in Christ Jesus (St Paul)	

Paper 3: Section 2 - Religious Teachings on Relationships (Ethics)

How are you Assessed in GCSE RE

Across all 3 exam papers, you will answer A, B, C and D questions.

A = 3 Marks

B = 4 Marks

C = 5 Marks

D = 12 Marks - Or 15 (a number of D questions award upto 3 extra marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar).

A, B and C Exam Questions

A) **Outline** three features of a Traditional Catholic Church - 3 Marks

3 simple points

No explanation or detail required

Needs to be three separate sentences

B) **Explain two reasons** why the Paintings are useful in Catholic worship. 4 Marks

2x Reason and Development

C) **Explain two reasons** ways Drama is used in worship. **You must refer to a source of authority in your answer. 5 Marks**

2x Reason and Development and a Source of Authority and Wisdom

A & B Models

A) Outline three features of a Traditional Catholic Church - 3 Marks

One feature of traditional church is an altar

Another feature of a traditional church is the nave

A final feature of a traditional church is a bell tower

3 simple points

B) Explain two reasons why the Paintings are useful in Catholic worship. 4 Marks

One reason why paintings are useful are to provide a visual aid. This means that the paintings can help tell a story of the catholic faith in a way which may be easier to understand.

A second reason why Paintings are useful is to provide a focus for prayer. This means that a painting can allow the worshiper to have time and space to focus on praying or provide inspiration to pray through the theme of the painting.

2x Reason and Development

C Model Answers

C) Explain two ways Drama is used in worship. 5 Marks

One way Drama is used is through passion plays. In the Catechism it teaches that God reveals himself through drama. This means that the passion play reveals God's nature by a dramatic reenactment of the death of Jesus.

A second way drama is used in through mystery plays. These plays tell different stories from the bible in a way which allows worshippers to have a visual experience of the story which may help them understand the message of the story better.

2x Reason and Development and a Source of Authority and Wisdom

D Question Structure

Minimum of 3 Paragraphs

Para 1

Reason for/against - Development - Source - Further development -
Appraisal/Evaluation

Para 2

Reason for/against - Development - Source - Further development -
Appraisal/Evaluation

Para 3 - Conclusion - What is the strongest argument? Justify your decision

A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief.

In the mark scheme there are two bullet points. The first addresses the presentation of the arguments for and against... these are about the statement.

The second is a consideration of the argument itself. The candidate makes judgements about the evidence – leading to a conclusion.

This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

The descriptors inside the arrows are for level 4 in the mark scheme

D Question - Mark scheme

Level 4	10-12	<p>A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief.</p> <p>This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.</p>
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Use arguments in a chain of ideas

Writes religious arguments in own words

Make sure you offer arguments that agree and arguments that disagree

Your final paragraph should not include new reasoning (knowledge) It must assess the validity of the argument

Make sure you have appraised every argument you have provided - make links between the content you have given

Weigh up all the arguments
Is each one strong or weak?
Why?

Use material that you know is correct - (not guessed)

What other support is available?

Google Classroom - the RE department shares lesson materials for you to revisit topics

Monday Drop-in sessions in the Reintegration Room - every Monday Lunchtime

Bring your teacher additional exam responses - they will happily go through them with you

Pearson/Edexcel website: Religious Studies section - [Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies A \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)