

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE

May–June 2022 Assessment Window

Syllabus
reference

1RA0

Religious Studies A Advance Information

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Instructions

- Please ensure that you have read this notice before the examination.

Information

- This notice covers all examined components.
- The format/structure of the assessments remains unchanged.
- This advance information details the focus of the content of the exams in 2022 assessments.
- There are no restrictions on who can use this notice.
- This notice is meant to help students to focus their revision time.
- Students and teachers can discuss the advance information.
- This document has 21 pages.

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General advice

- In addition to covering the content outlined in the advance information, students and teachers should consider how to:
 - manage their revision of parts of the specification that may be assessed in areas not covered by the advance information
 - manage their revision of other parts of the specification that may provide knowledge which helps with understanding the areas being tested in 2022.
- For specifications with synoptic assessments, topics not explicitly given in the advance information may appear, e.g. where students are asked to bring together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the specification.
- For specifications with optional papers/topics/content, students should only refer to the advance information for their intended option.
- (Bullet point black) For specifications with NEA, advance information does not cover any NEA components

A link to the Joint Council for Qualifications guidance document on advance information can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website or [here](#).

Advance Information

Subject specific section

- For each paper, the information listed in the tables shows the major focus of the content of certain AO1 and AO2 questions.
- For the sections outlined in this notice, exam questions will sample content from the areas listed in this advance information. Note that the exam may include some or all of the content in the listed topics.
- Sections not outlined in this advance information will follow the normal examination rules.
- The information is presented in specification order and not in question order.
- Students will be credited for using any relevant knowledge from any other topic areas when answering questions. In the questions assessing the sections outlined in this advance information, there is no expectation of knowledge beyond that identified in order to achieve full marks.

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1RA0/1A

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion

Option 1A – Catholic Christianity

Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.1	The Trinity: the nature and significance of the Trinity as expressed in the Nicene Creed; the nature and significance of the oneness of God; the nature and significance of each of the Persons individually: God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; how this is reflected in worship and belief in the life of a Catholic today.
1.3	Creation: the nature and significance of the biblical account of Creation, including Genesis 1–3; and how it may be understood in divergent ways in Christianity, including reference to literal and metaphorical interpretations; the significance of the Creation account for Catholics in understanding the nature and characteristics of God, especially as Creator, benevolent, omnipotent and eternal.
1.5	The Incarnation: Jesus as incarnate Son, the divine Word, including John 1, both fully God and fully human; the scriptural origins of this belief, including John 1:1–18 and its importance for Catholics today.
1.6	The events in the Paschal Mystery: Catholic teachings about the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, including reference to Luke 24; the redemptive efficacy of these events and their significance for Catholics today.

Section 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

	Content
3.4	The Second Vatican Council: the nature, history and importance of the council; the nature and significance of the four key documents for the Church and for Catholic living: Dei Verbum, Lumen Gentium, Sacrosanctum Concilium and Gaudium et Spes.
3.6	The meaning of the four marks of the Church: the nature of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic including reference to the Nicene Creed and the First Council of Constantinople; how the marks may be understood in divergent ways within Christianity; why they are important for Catholics today.
3.7	Mary as a model of the Church: the significance of Mary as a model of the Church – joined with Christ in the work of salvation, as a model of discipleship and as a model of faith and charity, including Luke 1:26–39 and Catechism of the Catholic Church 963–975; the implications of this teaching for Catholic life today.
3.8	Sources of personal and ethical decision making: the example and teaching of Jesus as the authoritative source for moral teaching; Jesus as fulfilment of the Law, including Matthew 5:17–24; divergent understandings of the place and authority of natural law; virtue and the primacy of conscience; the divergent implications of these sources of authority for Christians today.



Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.2	The creation of the universe and of humanity: the biblical account of creation and divergent ways in which it may be understood by Christians, including as literal and metaphorical; the role of the Word and Spirit in creation, including John 1:1– 18 and Genesis 1–3; the importance of creation for Christians today.
1.3	The Incarnation: the nature and importance of the person of Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son of God; the biblical basis of this teaching, including John 1:1–18 and 1 Timothy 3: 16 and its significance for Christians today.
1.6*	Christian eschatology: divergent Christian teachings about life after death, including the nature and significance of resurrection, judgement, heaven, and hell and purgatory, with reference to the 39 Articles of Religion and Catholic teachings; how beliefs about life after death are shown in the Bible, including reference to 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 and divergent understandings as to why they are important for Christians today.
1.7	The problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God: the problems it raises for Christians about the nature of God, including reference to omnipotence and benevolence, including Psalm 103; how the problem may cause believers to question their faith or the existence of God; the nature and examples of natural suffering, moral suffering.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification.



Section 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

	Content
3.1	The development and structure of the Bible and its unity as the Word of God: Old Testament: law, history, prophets, writings; and New Testament: gospels, letters; divergent interpretations of the authority of the Bible; the Bible as the literal Word of God, the inspired Word of God, source of guidance and teaching including 2 Timothy 3:16 and Dei Verbum Chapter 3; the implications of these understandings for Christians today.
3.4	Jesus as the Word of God including John 1 and a role model: beliefs and teachings about Jesus as the Word of God; divergent understandings of his role in modelling practices, including Mark 8:34–38; the divergent implications of Jesus' example in showing love for others, forgiveness, servanthood, reconciliation and social justice, and in establishing the Kingdom of God, the significance of these beliefs for Christians today.
3.6	The growth and development of the Church: the establishment, development and growth of the Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches; changes in the Church as the Body of Christ including interpretations of 1 Corinthians 12, the Filioque controversy and the Reformation; and divergent understandings of the significance of the development of diverse denominations within the Church today.
3.8	The role of women in the Church: divergent understandings of the basis of roles within the Bible, including interpretations of 1 Corinthians 14:33–40 and Romans 16:1–16; the historical development of attitudes towards women as leaders, and the different roles of women today in the Church and Christian life; divergent approaches to the role of women in different denominations.

Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.1	The six Beliefs of Islam: their nature, history and purpose, including Kitab al-iman 1: 4; how they are understood and expressed in Sunni and Shi'a Muslim communities today; the importance of these principles for Muslims.
1.2	The five roots of 'Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam (Tawhid (oneness of Allah); 'Adl (Divine Justice); Nubuwwah (Prophethood); Imamah (Successors to Muhammad) and Mi'ad (The Day of Judgment and the Resurrection): the nature, history and purpose of the five roots with reference to their Qur'anic basis, including Surah 112 (the oneness of Allah); the importance of these principles for different Shi'a communities today, including Sevener and Twelver.
1.7	al-Qadr: the nature and importance of Predestination for Muslims; how al-Qadr and human freedom relates to the Day of Judgement, including reference to Sahih Al-Bukhari 78: 685; divergent understandings of predestination in Sunni and Shi'a Islam; the implications of belief in al-Qadr for Muslims today.
1.8*	Akhirah: Muslim teachings about life after death; the nature of judgement, paradise and hell; how they are shown in the Qur'an, including Surah 17: 49–72; divergent ways in which Muslim teachings about life after death affect the life of a Muslim today.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification.



Section 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

	Content
3.3	The Seal of the Prophets, Surah 33: 36–47: Muhammad’s role as ‘seal of the Prophets’; the final prophet; fulfilling the teachings of all other prophets, and as a role model to Muslims today; the significance of Muhammad as seal of the prophets and a role model today.
3.4	The divergent understandings of the significance of the family of the Prophet Muhammad: including Caliph/Imam Ali (Ahl-ul-Bayt) in Sunni and Shi’a Islam and interpretations of Surah 33: 32-34, the family of the Prophet in Ismaili Islam; and the implications for questions of authority and the origins of the split between Sunni and Shi’a Islam.
3.5	The development and structure of the Hadith as a record of the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad: the structure and compilation of the Hadith, including isnad and matn; divergent understandings of their authority and significance within Sunni and Shi’a Islam today, including reference to Sahih Al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, and the Four Books.
3.7	The imam in Shi’a Islam, including reference to the Hadith of the pond of Khumm: history, major teachings and actions, divergent understandings of their contribution to Islam in Sunni and Shi’a thought, the doctrine of Nass, the hidden imam; the inerrancy and intercession of imams; the significance of the imam for different forms of Shi’a Islam today.

PAPER 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion

Option 2A – Catholic Christianity

Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.3	Creation: the nature and significance of the biblical account of Creation, including Genesis 1–3; and how it may be understood in divergent ways in Christianity, including reference to literal and metaphorical interpretations; the significance of the Creation account for Catholics in understanding the nature and characteristics of God, especially as Creator, benevolent, omnipotent and eternal.
1.5	The Incarnation: Jesus as incarnate Son, the divine Word, including John 1, both fully God and fully human; the scriptural origins of this belief, including John 1:1–18 and its importance for Catholics today.
1.7	The significance of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus for Catholic beliefs about salvation and grace, including John 3:10–21 and Acts 4:8–12; the implications and significance of these events for Catholic practice today.
1.8*	Catholic beliefs about eschatology: life after death; the nature of resurrection, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory, including reference to John 11:17–27 and 2 Corinthians 5:1–10; divergent Christian beliefs about life after death, with reference to purgatory and the nature of resurrection; why belief in life after death is important for Catholics today.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification.



PAPER 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion

Option 2B – Christianity

Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.1	The Trinity: the nature and significance of the Trinity as expressed in the Nicene Creed; the nature and significance of the oneness of God; the nature and significance of each of the Persons individually: including reference to Matthew 3:13–17; how this is reflected in Christian worship and belief today.
1.4	The last days of Jesus’ life: the Last Supper, betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus; the accounts of these within the Bible, including Luke 22–24 and the significance of these events to understanding the person of Jesus Christ.
1.6*	Christian eschatology: divergent Christian teachings about life after death, including the nature and significance of resurrection, judgement, heaven, and hell and purgatory, with reference to the 39 Articles of Religion and Catholic teachings; how beliefs about life after death are shown in the Bible, including reference to 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 and divergent understandings as to why they are important for Christians today.
1.7	The problem of evil/suffering and a loving and righteous God: the problems it raises for Christians about the nature of God, including reference to omnipotence and benevolence including Psalm 103; how the problem may cause believers to question their faith or the existence of God; the nature and examples of natural suffering, moral suffering.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification.



Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.1	The six Beliefs of Islam: their nature, history and purpose, including Kitab al-iman 1: 4; how they are understood and expressed in Sunni and Shi'a Muslim communities today; the importance of these principles for Muslims.
1.4	RiSalah: the nature and importance of prophethood for Muslims, including Surah 2: 136; what the roles of prophets teach Muslims, exemplified in the lives of Adam, Ibrahim, Isma'il, Musa, Dawud, Isa, Muhammad.
1.6	Malaikah: the nature and importance of angels for Muslims; how angels Jibril, Izra'il and Mika'il are shown in the Qur'an, including Surah 19, 32: 11 and 2: 97–98, and their significance for Muslims today.
1.8*	Akhirah: Muslim teachings about life after death; the nature of judgment, paradise and hell; how they are shown in the Qur'an including Surah 17: 49–72; divergent ways in which Muslim teachings about life after death affect the life of a Muslim today.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification.



PAPER 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion**Option 2D – Buddhism****Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings**

	Content
1.1	The life of the Buddha: the nature and history of the events in the life of the Buddha and why they are important to Buddhists today; including ancestry, birth, princely life, marriage, the Four Sights, including Buddhavamsa XXVI, the enlightenment of the Buddha and founding of the Sangha.
1.2	Dhamma: The nature and different meaning of dhamma – dependent origination/conditionality; the nature and importance of paticca-samuppada and the Three Marks of Existence, including reference to the Story of Nagasena and the Chariot in the Milinda Panha: suffering – dukkha, anicca – no fixed self and anatta – soul or essence; the implications of belief in dhamma for Buddhists today.
1.4	Second Noble Truth: the nature of samudaya – the causes of suffering, including reference to Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, the Three Poisons; Buddhist teachings about the causes of suffering – Sermon at Benares, and how they are represented in the Wheel of Life; divergent understandings of the Wheel of Life, with reference to Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.
1.8	Buddhist ethical teachings: divergent Buddhist understandings of the nature, purpose and importance of kamma, including Dhammapada 181–187 and the Khuddakapatha, merit and rebirth, karuna (compassion), metta (loving kindness), pancha sila (the five precepts) and the paramitas (six perfections); the divergent applications of each of these ethical teachings in Buddhist life today.

PAPER 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion**Option 2E – Hinduism****Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings**

	Content
1.1	The nature of Brahman: the nature of Brahman as spirit, ultimate reality or absolute truth; how the characteristics of Brahman are shown in Hindu scriptures, including Katha Upanishad 2.2.6–8.
1.3	Three aspects of the divine – Brahman, Antaryami and Bhagavan; the nature and significance of the divine as Brahman (everywhere and non-personal), Antaryami (within the heart) and Bhagavan (beyond, as a personal loving God); how the three aspects are shown in Hindu scriptures, including Mundaka Upanishad 2.1; why belief in the three aspects of the divine are important in Hindu life and for religious pluralism today.
1.4	Manifestations of the Divine: the nature and importance of how the deities are shown in Hindu scriptures; avatars and murti; the nature and role of male deities: divergent understandings of the importance of Vishnu (including Rig Veda 1.22) and Shiva; the nature and role of the female force, Shakti, including Parvati and Lakshmi.
1.7	Hindu responses to suffering, knowledge and ignorance: Hindu teachings about suffering, knowledge and ignorance, such as ahimsa, respect, empathy, mind/sense control, humility, and love, including Mahabharata 5:39; divergent Hindu understandings as to why there is suffering, knowledge and ignorance for Hindus today.

PAPER 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion

Option 2F – Judaism

Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.2	The nature and importance of Shekhinah: how the divine presence is shown in the Torah and why it is important, including interpretations of 2 Chronicles 7:1–3; the divergent understandings of Shekhinah found in different forms of Orthodox Judaism and the importance of them for Jews today.
1.3	The nature and purpose of the Messiah: how messiahship is shown in the scriptures including Jeremiah 23:5–8; the nature and significance of the Messianic Age and the Jewish responsibility to bring it about; divergent understandings of the Messiah in different forms of Orthodox and Reform Judaism and the importance of them for Jewish people today.
1.6	Sanctity of life: the nature and importance of Pikuach Nefesh (primacy of life); why human life is holy by Jewish people; how life is shown as special and taking precedence over everything, including Talmud Yoma 83–84; divergent understandings of how and why the principle of Pikuach Nefesh is applied by Jews today.
1.7	Moral principles and the Mitzvot: the nature and importance of the Mitzvot, including reference to the Mishneh Torah of Maimonides: Sefer Mada; the importance of the relationship between keeping the Mitzvot and free will; the Mitzvot between humans and the Almighty, and between humans; divergent understandings of the importance of the Mitzvot between the Almighty and humans, and between humans, for Jewish life today.



Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

	Content
1.1	The nature of God: how the characteristics of God are shown in the Mool Mantar, Guru Granth Sahib 1, and why the characteristics are important and why the Mool Mantar is significant for Sikhs.
1.4*	Sikh beliefs about life after death: the nature of karma, rebirth and mukti (liberation); how they are shown in the Guru Granth Sahib, including reference to Guru Granth Sahib 2 and 78; divergent understandings of how and why karma, rebirth and mukti are important for Sikh life today.
1.5	Purpose of life: the nature and importance of being gurmukh (God-centred) not manmukh (self-centred) and the elimination of haumai – (ego/pride), including reference to Guru Granth Sahib 125 and 226; what actions make a gurmukh Sikh; divergent understandings of why being gurmukh and eliminating haumai is important in Sikh life today.
1.6	The oneness of humanity: how the equality of all humans is shown in the Guru Granth Sahib, including Guru Granth Sahib 349, in stories from the lives of the Gurus, including the example of Mai Bhago, and the appointment of women as teachers, and in Sikh life today; how and why complete equality of men and women is important for Sikhs today.

*Further information can be found in the overview section for the relevant area of study in the specification



Section 1: Arguments for the Existence of God

	Content
1.2	Visions as proof of the existence of God: the nature and importance of visions for Catholics; biblical and non-biblical examples of visions, including Joan of Arc and Genesis 15 and Matthew 17:1–13; reasons why they might lead to belief in God and Catholic responses to non-religious arguments (including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that visions are hallucinations and provide no proof that God exists.
1.3	Miracles as proof of the existence of God: the nature and importance of miracles for Catholics; biblical and non-biblical examples of miracles, including those at Lourdes and John 4:43–54; reasons why they might lead to belief in God and Catholic responses to non-religious arguments (including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that miracles can be scientifically explained and provide no proof that God exists.
1.5	Design argument: the classical design argument for the existence of God and its use by Catholics as a philosophical argument for the existence of God; understandings of what the design argument shows about the nature of God for Catholics including Romans 1:18–24; Catholic responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments against the design argument as evidence for the existence of God.
1.6	Cosmological argument: the cosmological argument for the existence of God and its use by Catholics as a philosophical argument for the existence of God, including reference to Thomas Aquinas’ First Three Ways of showing God’s existence; understandings of the nature and importance of what the cosmological argument shows about the nature of God for Catholics; Catholic responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments against the cosmological argument as evidence for the existence of God.



Section 1: Arguments for the Existence of God

	Content
1.1	Revelation as proof of the existence of God; revelation as shown in the Bible, including in the covenants with Noah and Abraham and through Jesus, including Hebrews 1:1–4; divergent understandings of what revelation shows about the nature of God for Christians.
1.2	Visions as proof of the existence of God: the nature and importance of visions for Christians; biblical and non-biblical examples of visions, including Genesis 15 and Matthew 17:1–13; reasons why they might lead to belief in the existence of God and Christian responses to non-religious arguments (including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that visions are hallucinations and provide no proof that God exists; divergent understandings of what visions show about the nature of God for Christians.
1.4	Christian attitudes towards religious experiences and its use as a philosophical argument for the existence of God: the nature of a religious experience and why it might be regarded as revelation, including reference to Exodus 3; Christian responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments that religious experiences do not provide proof that God exists.
1.8	Religious upbringing: Christian teachings about raising children to believe in God, including reference to Proverbs 22:6; features of a Christian upbringing and why they may lead to belief in God; Christian responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments about why a religious upbringing may result in a rejection of God’s existence.



Section 1: Arguments for the Existence of Allah

	Content
1.2	Visions as proof of the existence of Allah: the nature and importance of visions in Islam; Qur’anic examples of visions, including Surah 19: 16–22; reasons why they might lead to belief in the existence of Allah and Muslim responses to nonreligious arguments (including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that visions are hallucinations and provide no proof that Allah exists; divergent understandings of what visions show about the nature of Allah for Muslims, with reference to Sunni, Shi’a and Sufi Islam.
1.4	Muslim attitudes towards religious experiences and their use as philosophical arguments for the existence of Allah: the nature of a religious experience; Surah 2: 118; divergent understandings of the nature and importance of religious experiences in Islam, with reference to Sunni, Shi’a and Sufi Islam; Muslim responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments that religious experiences do not provide proof that Allah exists.
1.5	Design argument: the design argument and its use in Islam as a philosophical argument for the existence of Allah and what it shows about the nature of Allah: divergent understandings of the nature and importance of the design argument for the existence of Allah in Islam, including reference to Surah 2: 164; Muslim responses to non-religious (including atheist and Humanist) arguments against the design argument as evidence for the existence of Allah.
1.7	Issues raised by existence of suffering and Allah as compassionate, including Surah 1: the problems the existence of suffering may raise for Muslims about the nature of Allah; how the problem and its basis as a philosophical argument may lead some people to reject belief in Allah or cause believers to question their belief.

Section 1: Who is Jesus?

	Content
1.2	The baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:2–11): the events of the baptism; divergent understandings of its significance, including marking the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, what it shows about him, and its significance for Christians today.
1.3	Nature miracles in Mark’s Gospel: what they show about Jesus, including the calming of the storm (Mark 4:35–41); the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:32–44) and the walking on the water (Mark 6:45–52) and divergent understandings of their significance for different Christians today; Christian responses to non-religious arguments (including atheist and Humanist) which maintain that miracles can be scientifically explained and provide no proof of Jesus as divine.
1.5	Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27–33): what this shows about Jesus and his purpose; ideas about the Messianic secret in Mark’s Gospel.
1.8	The last days of Jesus’ life: reasons for his arrest; the Last Supper (Mark 14:12–31); the prayers in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32–42); the betrayal and arrest (Mark 14:43–52); the trial before the High Priest (Mark 14:53–65); the trial before Pilate (Mark 15:1–15); the Passion (Mark 15:21–39; 16:1–8), what these events show about the purpose of Jesus’ life, and how they may differ from other Gospel accounts, what these events show about Jesus; divergent understandings of the significance of these events for different Christians today.



Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings of Islam

	Content
1.2	The oneness of Allah in Surah Al-Anaam (6: 13-24): what this means to an understanding of Allah, how this reflected in worship; its significance for Muslims today.
1.3	The 99 beautiful names of Allah found in the Qur’an: what they teach Muslims about Allah; individual names, including Ar-Rahman (the All-Merciful), including Surah 55: 1, Ar-Rahim (the All-Merciful), including Surah 3: 31, As-Salam (the Source of Peace), including Surah 59: 23, Al-Khaliq (the Creator), including Surah 6: 102, Al-Ghaffar (the All-Forgiving), including Surah 2: 173, Ar-Razzaq, (the Sustainer), including Surah 51: 58 and their importance should be used to illustrate understanding Allah and his relationship to humanity; and their importance for Muslim living and worship today.
1.6	Justice (Surah An-Nisa 4: 105–35): the nature and importance of justice as outlined in the Qur’an; its application in the Qur’an, in examples from the life of Muhammad in the Hadith, and divergent ways it is applied by Muslims today.
1.7	Shirk: teachings about shirk in the Qur’an and their significance; the ascribing of partners to Allah; the worship of idols including Surah 7: 148–150; divergent ways in which this belief will affect a Muslim today and their relationship to other religions.

END OF ADVANCE INFORMATION