

TABLE 1 – FULL COURSE WITH EQUAL STUDY OF TWO RELIGIONS

Awarding organisation	Part one: Study of Religions 50% Subject content as set out in DfE annexes		Part Two: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World 50%	Assessment
EDUQAS	<p>Beliefs and teachings and Practices from either: Christianity OR Christianity (Catholic Christianity)</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>One world faith chosen from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Buddhism</li> <li>2. Hinduism</li> <li>3. Islam</li> <li>4. Judaism</li> <li>5. Sikhism</li> </ol>	Each section examined though one 1 hour paper – compulsory questions	<p>Study of issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Life and Death</li> <li>• Good, Evil and Suffering</li> <li>• Human Rights, Religion and Social Justice</li> </ul>	Examined though one 2 hour paper – compulsory questions
OCR:	<p><b>Beliefs and teachings and Practices</b> from two religions chosen from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianity*</li> <li>• Christianity – Roman Catholic*</li> <li>• Buddhism</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Islam</li> <li>• Judaism</li> </ul> <p>*prohibited combination</p>	Examined through one 2 hour paper (30 minutes per theme per religion)	<p>Study of four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships and families</li> <li>• The existence of God and ultimate reality</li> <li>• Religion, peace and conflict</li> <li>• Belief and non-belief</li> </ul>	Examined through one 2 hour paper (30 mins per theme)

<p><b>AQA</b></p>	<p>Topics: Beliefs and teachings and Practices</p> <p>Study of two religions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christianity*</li> <li>2. Christianity (Catholic Christianity)*</li> <li>3. Islam</li> <li>4. Judaism</li> <li>5. Hinduism</li> <li>6. Buddhism</li> <li>7. Sikhism</li> </ol> <p>*prohibited combination</p>	<p>Each of the two religions chosen is examined by TWO 5-part compulsory questions (24 marks each question)</p> <p>There will be one question for each topic for each religion (four in total)</p> <p>Exam: 1 hour 45 mins – 96 marks (plus five marks for spelling, grammar and specialist terminology).</p>	<p>Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world:</p> <p>Themes: 50%</p> <p>EITHER Four chosen from the six below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion and relationships</li> <li>• Religion and life</li> <li>• The existence of God and revelation</li> <li>• Religion, peace and conflict</li> <li>• Religion, crime and punishment</li> <li>• Religion, human rights and social justice</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>TWO chosen from the six above (25%) PLUS Two themes from St Mark’s Gospel (25%)</p>	<p>Each of the four themes chosen is examined by one five-part compulsory question (24 marks each).</p> <p>Four questions in total</p> <p>Exam: 1 hour 45 mins – 96 marks (plus five marks for spelling, grammar and specialist terminology).</p>
<p>This specification integrates the study of two religions with the study of themes in philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world:</p>				
<p><b>Edexcel B</b></p> <p><b>Beliefs in Action</b></p>	<p>Two religions chosen from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddhism</li> <li>• Catholic Christianity*</li> <li>• Christianity*</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Islam</li> <li>• Judaism</li> <li>• Sikhism.</li> </ul> <p>*prohibited combination</p> <p>AND applied to two areas of study chosen from the three below. Each of these areas is worth 50% of the GCSE:</p> <p>Area of Study 1 is Ethics. This explores God, The Family, Worship as well as Life and Death. (50%)</p> <p>Area of Study 2 is Peace and conflict. This explores God, Reconciliation, Worship and Peace (50%)</p> <p>Area of Study 3 is Philosophy. This explores God, Belief, Worship and Equality (50%)</p>	<p>Students sit TWO papers. There are four sections within each paper with a combination of structured questions (worth 25%) and extended open response/critical thinking.(worth 75%)</p> <p>This means there are 7 papers available for each Area of Study - One for each of the 7 religions offered.</p> <p>Structured questions make up 25% of the GCSE</p>		

TABLE 2 – FAITH SCHOOLS OPTION

**Full course – Option Two**

1(a) The study of ONE religion on FOUR topics: Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of wisdom and authority, Forms of expression (Worth 50% of the GCSE)

1(b) The study of a SECOND religion on TWO topics: Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of wisdom and authority (Worth 25% of the GCSE)

2 The study of TWO themes with a focus on texts and or philosophy and ethics in the modern world in one religion (Worth 25% of the GCSE)

Awarding organisation	Part one (1): Study of Religions 1 50% Subject content as set out in DfE annexes	Part one (2): Study of Religions 2 25% Subject content as set out in DfE annexes	Part Two: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World 25%	
<p>Edexcel A</p> <p>Faith and Practice in the 21st Century</p>	<p>(Catholic Christianity*, Christianity* or Islam)</p> <p>Component 1 Primary Religion. This is worth 50% of the GCSE Students would study four topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beliefs and teachings</li> <li>2. Practices</li> <li>3. Sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>4. Forms of expression and ways of life</li> </ol> <p>*prohibited combination</p> <p>1 hour and 45 minutes examination 112 marks worth 50%</p>	<p>Component 2 Second Religion. Students would study two topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs and Teaching</li> <li>• Practices.</li> </ul> <p>Seven religions offered chosen from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddhism</li> <li>• Catholic Christianity*</li> <li>• Christianity*</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Islam</li> <li>• Judaism</li> <li>• Sikhism.</li> </ul> <p>50 min examination 56 marks worth 25%</p>	<p>Optional Component 3 Philosophy and Ethics in primary religion. Two themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Arguments for the existence of God from a variety of viewpoints within a religion.</li> <li>2. Relationships and families</li> </ol> <p>OR</p> <p>Optional Component 4 Textual Study. One textual study chosen from: Mark’s Gospel and Qur’an</p> <p>50 minute examination 56 marks worth 25%</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Component 1: Primary Religion = 50%</li> <li>2. Component 2: Second Religion = 25%</li> </ol> <p><b>PLUS EITHER</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Component 3 Philosophy and Ethics.25% of GCSE)</li> </ol> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Component 4 Textual Study. 25%</li> </ol> <p>Each paper follows the same structure – choice of two questions; Structured questions make up 25% of each paper; Extended open response/critical thinking make up 75% of each paper.</p>
<p>AQA – Catholic Christianity</p>	<p>Catholic Christianity (50%)</p> <p>Four topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beliefs and teachings</li> <li>2. Practices</li> <li>3. Sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>4. Forms of expression</li> </ol>	<p>A study of a second religion chosen from Judaism and Islam (25%)</p>	<p>A study of two themes. These can be based on philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world or text based (25%)</p>	

TABLE 3 Advanced Level Specifications

Awarding organisation	Component 1: the study of religion	Component 2: Philosophy of Religion	Component 3: Ethics and religion	Assessment
<p>WJEC</p> <p>AS</p>	<p>One religion chosen from: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism</p> <p>AS level study four themes There will be four themes within each option:</p> <p>1 : Religious Figures and Sacred Texts 2 : Religious Concepts 3 : Religious Life 4 : Religious Practices</p>	<p>There will be four themes within this component:</p> <p>1 : Cosmological arguments for the Existence of God 2 : Teleological arguments for the Existence of God 3 : The Non-Existence of God : the Problem of Evil 4 : Religious Experience</p>	<p>AS level study four themes (including some applied ethics in Themes 2-4):</p> <p>1 : Ethical Language and Thought 2 : Aquinas' Natural Law 3 : Fletcher's Situation Ethics 4 : Utilitarianism</p>	<p><b>AS level:</b> Two questions must be answered from a choice of four.</p> <p>The four questions can be selected from any area within the option. Each question will be divided into two sub-questions. Part (a) will assess knowledge and understanding Part (b) will assess skills of analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Assessment weighting within the component: (50% AO1, 50% AO2)</p>
<p>WJEC</p> <p>A-level</p>	<p>A level study four themes</p> <p>1 : Religious Figures and Sacred Texts 2 : Religious Concepts 3 : Development of religious thought and contemporary issues 4 : Religious practices and religious identity</p>	<p>A level study four themes:</p> <p>1 : Arguments for the existence of God 2 : Challenges to religious belief 3 : Religious Experience 4 : Religious Language</p>	<p>A-level study four themes (including some applied ethics in Themes 2 and 3):</p> <p>1 : Ethical language and thought 2 : Deontological ethics 3 : Teleological ethics 4 : Freewill and determinism</p>	<p><b>A level:</b> Two questions must be answered from a choice of four. All four themes will not necessarily be assessed each year</p> <p>Each question will be divided into two sub questions Part (a) will assess knowledge and understanding Part (b) will assess skills of analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Assessment weighting within the component: (40% AO1, 60% AO2)</p>



Awarding organisation	Component 1: the study of religion	Component 2: Philosophy of Religion	Component 3: Ethics and religion	Assessment
<p>OCR:</p> <p>AS</p>	<p>Development in Religious Thoughts One religion chosen from: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism</p> <p>AS level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o religious beliefs, values and teachings</li> <li>o sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>o practices that shape and express religious identity</li> </ul>	<p>Philosophy of religion</p> <p>AS level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief including at least three contrasting arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, gods or ultimate reality</li> <li>o the nature and influence of religious experience</li> <li>o challenges to religious belief such as the problems of evil and suffering</li> <li>o philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in the philosophy of religion</li> </ul>	<p>Religion and ethics</p> <p>AS level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ethical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in religion and ethics.</li> <li>o three normative ethical theories such as deontological, teleological or character based ethics (at least two of which must be religious approaches)</li> <li>o the application of ethical theory to two personal, societal or global issues of importance, including religious ethical perspectives</li> <li>o</li> </ul>	<p>At AS level: Candidates study three components and sit a 90 minute examination for each.</p> <p>Weighting 33.3% Marks 90</p> <p>1: Philosophy of Religion 2: Religion and ethics 3: Development in Christian Thought</p>
<p>OCR</p> <p>A-level</p>	<p>A level as AS above and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o significant social and historical developments in theology or religious thought</li> <li>o a comparison of the significant ideas presented in works of at least two key scholars selected from the field of religion and belief</li> <li>o two themes related to the relationship between religion and society</li> </ul> <p>how developments in beliefs and practices have, over time, influenced and been influenced by developments in philosophical and ethical studies of religion</p>	<p>A level as AS above and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o how views of religious language have changed over time; the challenges posed by the verification/falsification debate and language games theory over whether religious language should be viewed cognitively or non-cognitively; and a consideration of at least two different views about religious teachings being understood symbolically and analogically</li> <li>o a comparison of the significant ideas presented in works of at least two key scholars selected from the field of the philosophy of religion and developments in the way these ideas are applied to issues in religion and belief</li> <li>o how the philosophy of religion has, over time, influenced and been influenced by developments in religious beliefs and practices and ethics</li> </ul>	<p>A level as AS above and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o how ethical language in the modern era has changed over time; including a study of meta-ethical theories and significant ideas in religious and moral thought such as free will, conscience or authority</li> <li>o a comparison of the significant ideas presented in the works of at least two key scholars selected from the field of religion and ethics, and developments in the way these ideas are applied to significant issues in religion and belief</li> <li>o how the study of ethics has, over time, influenced and been influenced by developments in religious beliefs and practices, the philosophy of religion</li> </ul>	<p>At A level:</p> <p>Candidates study the same three components as at AS and sit one 2 hour examination for each.</p> <p>Weighting 33.3% Marks 120</p>

Awarding organisation	Component 1: the study of religion	Component 2: Philosophy of Religion	Component 3: Ethics and religion	Assessment
<p><b>AQA</b></p> <p><b>AS</b></p>	<p>One religion chosen from: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism</p> <p>Paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ God/ gods/ultimate reality</li> <li>○ Life after death</li> <li>○ Source of wisdom and authority</li> </ul> <p>Paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The key moral principles of one religion</li> <li>○ Religious identity</li> </ul>	<p>Paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three arguments for the existence of God/gods/ultimate reality</li> <li>○ Evil</li> <li>○ Religious experience</li> </ul>	<p>Paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three ethical theories</li> <li>○ Issues of human life and death</li> <li>○ Issues of animal life and death</li> </ul>	<p>The content for the <b>three</b> components are divided between <b>two</b> papers.</p> <p>2 x written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each 50% of AS</p> <p>Section 1: One two-part question (30 marks) Section 2: Two two-part questions (30 marks each)</p>
<p><b>AQA</b></p> <p><b>A-level</b></p>	<p>A level – paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ God/ gods/ultimate reality</li> <li>○ Life after death</li> <li>○ Source of wisdom and authority</li> <li>○ The challenge from science</li> </ul> <p>The nature and role of religion</p> <p>A level – paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The key moral principles of one religion</li> <li>○ Religious identity</li> <li>○ Religion and sexual identity</li> <li>○ Religion and religious pluralism</li> </ul>	<p>A level – paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three arguments for the existence of God/gods/ultimate reality</li> <li>○ Evil</li> <li>○ Religious experience</li> <li>○ Religious Language</li> <li>○ Miracles with reference to David Hume and Maurice Wiles</li> <li>○ Self and life after death</li> <li>○ The nature and function of religion</li> </ul> <p>A level – paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three ethical theories</li> <li>○ Issues of human life and death</li> <li>○ Issues of animal life and death</li> <li>○ Introduction to meta-ethics</li> <li>○ Freewill and moral responsibility</li> <li>○ Conscience</li> <li>○ Bentham and Kant</li> </ul>	<p>The dialogue between philosophy and religion –paper 1</p> <p>How religion is influenced by, and influences, philosophy of religion in relation to the issued studies</p> <p>The dialogue between ethical studies and religion –paper 2 (A level only)</p> <p>How religion is influenced by, and influences, ethical studies in relation to the issued studies</p>	<p><b>A-level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 x written exam: 3 hours</li> <li>○ each 50% of A-level</li> </ul> <p>Section 1: One two-part question (25 marks) Section 2: Two two-part questions ( 25 marks each) Section 3: The dialogue between philosophy / ethics and religion One unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two (25 marks)</p> <p>In all sections, questions may be set that span more than one topic</p>

Awarding organisation	Component 1: the study of religion	Component 3: Textual Studies	Component 1: Philosophy of Religion	Component 2: Ethics and religion	Assessment
Edexcel AS	<b>Component 4: Study of Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious beliefs, values and teachings</li> <li>Sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>Practices that shape and express religious identity</li> <li>(Set texts will be specified)</li> </ul>	<b>Component 3: New Testament Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context of the New Testament</li> <li>Texts and Interpretation of the New Testament</li> <li>Interpreting the text and the purpose and authorship of the 4th Gospel</li> </ul>	<b>Component 1: Philosophy of Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophical issues</li> <li>Nature &amp; Influence of religious experience</li> <li>Problem of evil and suffering</li> </ul>	<b>Component 2: Religion and Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant concepts in issues and debates</li> <li>Utilitarianism, situation ethics and natural moral law</li> <li>War &amp; Peace and Sexual Ethics</li> </ul>	Candidates study three of the four components. Each is worth 33.3% of qualification Each component is assessed by a 1 hour exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structured questions</li> <li>Essay</li> </ul>
Edexcel A-level	<b>Component 4: Study of Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious beliefs, values and teachings</li> <li>Sources of wisdom and authority</li> <li>Practices that shape and express religious identity</li> <li>Social and Historical developments</li> <li>Comparative study of two scholars</li> <li>Religion and Society</li> <li>(Set texts will be specified)</li> </ul>	<b>Component 3: New Testament Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context of the New Testament</li> <li>Texts and Interpretation of the New Testament</li> <li>Interpreting the text and the purpose and authorship of the 4th Gospel</li> <li>Ways of interpreting scripture</li> <li>Variety of texts and interpretations</li> <li>Scientific and historical challenges in faith and history</li> </ul>	<b>Component 1: Philosophy of Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophical issues</li> <li>Nature &amp; Influence of religious experience</li> <li>Problem of evil and suffering</li> <li>Language</li> <li>Philosophers</li> <li>Influences and developments</li> </ul>	<b>Component 2: Religion and ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant concepts in issues and debates</li> <li>Utilitarianism, situation ethics and natural moral law</li> <li>War &amp; Peace and Sexual Ethics</li> <li>Ethical Language</li> <li>Ethical Theory (including comparison of 2 scholars)</li> <li>Medical ethics</li> </ul>	Candidates study three of the four components. Each is worth 33.3% of qualification  Each component is assessed by a 2 hour exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structured questions</li> <li>Extract from an unseen source</li> <li>Essay</li> </ul>