

Dallam Religious Studies GCSE

Parent's Guide

What History specification does my child do?

Your child completes the AQA GCSE Religious Studies A.

What is my child assessed in?

Your child is assessed in two different skills known as 'Assessment Objectives' (AO's). Below is a summary of these so you know the differences:

- AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge. And understanding of religion and beliefs including: beliefs, practices and sources of authority; influence on individuals, communities and societies; similarities and differences within and/or between religion and beliefs.
- AO2 – Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

What topics does my child sit exams in?

Paper 1 – The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Islam)	Paper 2 – Thematic Studies (Relationships and Families; Religion and Life; Religion, Peace and Conflict; Religion, Crime and Punishment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour and 45 minute exam.• 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.• 50% of GCSE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour and 45 minute exam.• 96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.• 50% of GCSE.

What does my child need to know for each paper?

This is a long question to answer! Please see an outline of what your child needs to be comfortable on, and links to websites that may help you to understand the topic too. Please also see an outline of the question types on this paper, a recommended structure and possible sentence starters.

Paper 1 – The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Islam)	
<u>Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God as omnipotent, loving and just, and the problem of evil and suffering• The oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.• Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3).• Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including: resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell.• Jesus Christ and salvation• the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God• the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension	YouTube links (Click to open): All of GCSE RS Christianity Beliefs & Teachings & Practices key notes + exam questions - YouTube BBC Bitesize (Click to open): The nature of God - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize The Trinity - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize Christian beliefs about the Trinity - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize The incarnation of Jesus - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sin, including original sin • the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit • the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement. 	<p>Jesus' final days - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>The resurrection and ascension of Jesus - The nature of God and Jesus in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p>
<p><u>Christianity: Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different forms of worship and their significance: liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, including the use of the Bible, private worship. • Prayer and its significance, including the Lord's Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer. • The meaning of sacrament • The sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers' baptism; different beliefs about infant baptism • The sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist and its significance for Christians, including different ways in which it is celebrated and different interpretations of its meaning. • The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations • Two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona • The celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today. The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors. • The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth. • The importance of the worldwide Church including: working for reconciliation how Christian churches respond to persecution • The work of one of the following: Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Tearfund. 	<p>Creation - Key beliefs in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>The role of the Trinity in creation - Key beliefs in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Afterlife - Key beliefs in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Heaven and Hell - Key beliefs in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Salvation - Key beliefs in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Worship and festivals - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Prayer - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Baptism - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>The Eucharist - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Pilgrimage - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Key Christian festivals - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>The role of the Church - local community - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>The role of the Church - Church growth - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p>
<p><u>Islam: Beliefs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The six articles of faith in Sunni Islam and five roots of Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam, including key similarities and differences. • Tawhid (the Oneness of God), Qur'an Surah 112. • The nature of God: omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice/Adalat in Shi'a Islam, including different ideas about 	<p>The role of the Church - worldwide Church - Practices in Christianity - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</p> <p><u>YouTube links (Click to open):</u></p> <p>Sunni and Shia AQA Islam - YouTube</p> <p><u>BBC Bitesize links (Click to open):</u></p>

God's relationship with the world: immanence and transcendence.

- Angels, their nature and role, including Jibril and Mika'il.
- Predestination and human freedom and its relationship to the Day of Judgement.
- Akhirah (life after death), human responsibility and accountability, resurrection, heaven and hell.
- Risalah (Prophethood) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.
- Qur'an: revelation and authority
- the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, the Scrolls of Abraham and their authority.
- The imamate in Shi'a Islam: its role and significance.

Islam: practices

- Five Pillars of Sunni Islam and the Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam (students should study the Five Pillars and jihad in both Sunni and Shi'a Islam and the additional duties of Shi'a Islam).
- Shahadah: declaration of faith and its place in Muslim practice.
- Salah and its significance: how and why Muslims pray including times, directions, ablution (wudu), movements (rak'ahs) and recitations; salah in the home and mosque and elsewhere; Friday prayer: Jumma; key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer.
- Duties and festivals
- Sawm: the role and significance of fasting during the month of Ramadan including origins, duties, benefits of fasting, the exceptions and their reasons, and the Night of Power, Qur'an 96:1-5.
- Zakah: the role and significance of giving alms including origins, how and why it is given, benefits of receipt, Khums in Shi'a Islam.
- Hajj: the role and significance of the pilgrimage to Makkah including origins, how hajj is performed, the actions pilgrims perform at sites including the Ka'aba at Makkah, Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah and their significance.

[Faith - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Beliefs - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[The nature of God - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Angels - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Life after death - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Judgement - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Predestination - Key beliefs in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Prophethood - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Who were the prophets before Muhammad? - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Life of the Prophet Muhammad - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[The Prophet Muhammad's revelation - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Muhammad's succession - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Risalah - holy books - Authority - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[The Five Pillars of Islam - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Shahadah - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Duties and festivals - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Zakah - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Hajj - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Jihad - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

- Jihad: different understandings of jihad: the meaning and significance of greater and lesser jihad; origins, influence and conditions for the declaration of lesser jihad.
- Festivals and commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today, including the origins and meanings of Id-ul-Adha, Id-ul-Fitr, Ashura.

[Id - Practices in Islam - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

Paper 2 – Thematic Studies (Relationships and Families; Religion and Life; Religion, Peace and Conflict; Religion, Crime and Punishment)

Theme A: Relationships and Families

- Be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues: contraception; sexual relationships before marriage; homosexual relationships
- Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships; sexual relationships before and outside of marriage; contraception and family planning; the nature and purpose of marriage; same-sex marriage and cohabitation; divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying; ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion.
- The nature of families, including: the role of parents and children; extended families and the nuclear family; the purpose of families, including procreation, stability and the protection of children, educating children in a faith.
- Contemporary family issues including: same-sex parents; polygamy; the roles of men and women; gender equality; gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples.

Theme B: Religion and Life

- Be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions: abortion; euthanasia; animal experimentation.
- The origins of the universe, including; religious teachings about the origins of the universe, and different interpretations of these; the relationship between scientific views, such as the Big Bang theory, and religious views.
- The value of the world and the duty of human beings to protect it, including religious teaching about stewardship, dominion, responsibility, awe and wonder.
- The use and abuse of the environment, including the use of natural resources, pollution.
- The use and abuse of animals, including: animal experimentation; the use of animals for food.
- The origins of life, including: religious teachings about the origins of human life, and different interpretations of these; the relationship between scientific views, such as evolution, and religious views.
- The concepts of sanctity of life and the quality of life.
- Abortion, including situations when the mother's life is at risk.
- Ethical arguments related to abortion, including those based on the sanctity of life and quality of life.
- Euthanasia.
- Beliefs about death and an afterlife, and their impact on beliefs about the value of human life.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

- Be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions: Violence; Weapons of mass destruction; Pacifism.
- The meaning and significance of: peace, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation.
- Violence, including violent protest.
- Terrorism.

- Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation.
- The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war.
- Holy war.
- Pacifism.
- Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world.
- Nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence.
- The use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.
- Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

- Be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions: Corporal punishment; Death penalty; Forgiveness.
- Good and evil intentions and actions, including whether it can ever be good to cause suffering.
- Reasons for crime, including: poverty and upbringing; mental illness and addiction; greed and hate; opposition to an unjust law.
- Views about people who break the law for these reasons.
- Views about different types of crime, including hate crimes, theft and murder.
- The aims of punishment, including: retribution, deterrence, reformation.
- The treatment of criminals, including: prison, corporal punishment, community service.
- Forgiveness.
- The death penalty.
- Ethical arguments related to the death penalty, including those based on the principle of utility and sanctity of life.