



## GCSE: AQA Religious Studies A (8062/SA) Course Content

This GCSE course consists of two units:

### Unit One: The Study of Religions

This component comprises 50% of the course and is assessed by an exam of one and three-quarter hours, to be sat at the end of the course in May 2026.

This exam will assess students' comprehension of the beliefs and practices of two world religions:

#### Judaism

- Beliefs and Teachings
  1. God as One
  2. God as the creator
  3. The nature of God
  4. Life after Death
  5. The Messiah
  6. The covenant with Abraham
  7. The covenant at Sinai
  8. Key moral principles in Judaism
  9. Sanctity of Life
  10. Free Will and Mitzvot
- Practices
  1. Synagogue and home
  2. Shabbat
  3. Written and Oral Law
  4. Birth celebrations
  5. Bar and Bat Mitzvah
  6. Marriage
  7. Mourning the dead
  8. Dietary laws
  9. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
  10. Pesach

#### Islam

- Beliefs and Teachings
  1. God as One
  2. Sunni Islam and Shi'a Islam
  3. The nature of God
  4. Angels
  5. Predestination
  6. Life after death
  7. Prophethood and Adam
  8. Ibrahim
  9. Muhammad and the Imamate
  10. The holy books in Islam
- Practices
  1. The Five Pillars and Shahadah
  2. The Ten Obligatory Acts
  3. Salah: daily prayers
  4. Sawm: fasting during Ramadan
  5. Zakah: almsgiving
  6. Hajj
  7. Jihad
  8. Festival of Id-ul-Fitr
  9. Festival of Id-ul-Adha
  10. Festival of Ashura

## Unit Two: Thematic Studies (Judaism)

This component comprises 50% of the course and is assessed by an exam of one and three-quarter hours, to be sat at the end of the course in May 2026.

This exam will assess students' ability to consider Jewish perspectives on ethical dilemmas in the following four areas:

- Relationships and families
  1. Human sexuality
  2. Sex outside of marriage
  3. Contraception
  4. Marriage
  5. Divorce & remarriage
  6. The nature of families
  7. The purpose of families
  8. Gender equality
- Religion, crime and punishment
  1. Crime & punishment
  2. Reasons for crime
  3. Jewish attitudes to criminals
  4. Three aims of punishment
  5. Jewish attitudes to suffering
  6. Treatment of criminals
  7. Jewish attitudes to forgiveness
  8. The death penalty
- Religion and life
  1. The origins of the universe
  2. The value of the world
  3. Use & abuse of the environment
  4. Use & abuse of animals
  5. The origins of human life
  6. Abortion
  7. Euthanasia
  8. Death & afterlife
- Human rights and social justice
  1. Human rights
  2. Social justice
  3. Religious freedom
  4. Prejudice & discrimination
  5. Women in Judaism
  6. Judaism & wealth
  7. Poverty & exploitation
  8. Giving money to the poor