



A Level Religious Studies Content Overview and Top Tips

What will my child be expected to know for the A-level exam?

The specification and paper overview at a glance is below*, however more detailed subject specifications are available at: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.html>

Note – *Christianity will not be covered in the trial exam.

Philosophy of Religion	Ethics	Christianity
Content overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for/against God • Religious experience • Problem of evil and suffering • Work of Scholars 	Content overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/debates in ethics • Three ethical theories • Application of ethical theories • Work of Scholars 	Content overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs, values, and teachings • Practices • Social and historical developments • Work of scholars
Assessment Guidance: 2 Hour Written Examination Section A: Two extended-response questions Section B: One two-part essay question on an excerpt from the anthology Section C: One extended essay question.	Assessment Guidance: 2 Hour Written Examination Section A: Two extended-response questions Section B: One two-part essay question on an excerpt from the anthology Section C: One extended essay question.	Assessment Guidance: 2 Hour Written Examination Section A: Two extended-response questions Section B: One two-part essay question on an excerpt from the anthology Section C: One extended essay question.

Support from the department and further afield

- Students can access a wealth of revision resources via showmyhomework or alternatively ask for hard copies from the department.
- Purchase books from the recommended reading list.

Tips for revision and how you can support

1. **Ensure you use a variety of resources and engage in wider reading:** Don't just use the core course textbook but make use of other texts contained on recommended reading lists. Use these resources to add extra examples, studies and evaluations to topics as part of your revision. A sound resource for this is the Stanford encyclopaedia of Philosophy or Philosophy Dungeon for something a little more accessible.
2. **Practice deconstructing and answering exam questions.** All students have been given a wealth of potential exam questions for each paper. These are also available on showmyhomework and many examples are also contained in the core textbook.
3. **Write additional essays on topic areas you find more challenging-not those you already understand!** Then hand in your final best draft for teacher feedback.
4. **Create glossaries of key philosophers and concepts for each topic.** Ask a parent/friend to test your recall of these little and often.





5. **Make use of the revision resources on showmyhomework** for topics to aid revision.
6. **Take an active interest in philosophy and explore beyond what's covered in class.** This is not GCSE anymore and a wider range of knowledge than taught in class will benefit you greatly.

Useful Websites list:

- www.getrevising.co.uk – students can create their own resources as well as use existing. *Please be aware to look out for **teacher recommended** resources to ensure the information on those resources is correct.
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials> Visit the Edexcel website for past papers, markschemes etc.
- www.quizlet.com – students can create their own profile for free allowing for revision of key terms and definitions. Simply input the key term and definition and the website produces flash cards, word fills, mini tests and even a game!
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/religious-studies>. This site contains a wealth of revision seminar clips, example model answers and articles.
- <https://plato.stanford.edu/>. The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. This site is high level but contains very useful pages with lots of detail.
- <https://www.iep.utm.edu/> The internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. Another site with just as detailed articles.
- <https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/> **A specific website designed for helping with the edexcel course. (highly recommended).**

