**AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (Full Course)**

**Programme of Study (Content)**

**1. Islam: Beliefs and Teachings**

* The oneness of Allah and the Supremacy of Allah’s will
* Key beliefs of Sunni and Shi’a Islam
* The nature of Allah
* Angels
* Predestination
* Life after death
* Prophethood (risalah) – Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad
* The imamate in Shi’a Islam
* Holy books in Islam

**2. Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings**

* The nature of God
* God as omnipotent, loving and just
* The oneness of God and the Trilogy
* Christian beliefs about Creation
* The incarnation and Jesus, the Son of God
* The Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension
* Life after death, judgement
* Heaven and hell
* Sin and salvation, including the role of Christ in salvation

**3. Relationships and Families**

* Human Sexuality
* Sexual Relationships before and outside marriage
* Contraception and family planning
* Marriage
* Divorce and remarriage
* The nature of families
* The purpose of families
* Gender equality

**4. Religion, Peace and Conflict**

* Violence, violent protest and terrorism
* Reasons for war
* Nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction
* Just War
* Holy War
* Pacifism
* Victims of War

**5. Islam: Practices**

* The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam
* The Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi’a Islam
* Shahadah
* Salah: the daily prayers
* Sawm: fasting during Ramadan
* Zakah: Almsgiving
* Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca
* Jihad
* Festivals: Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha, and Ashura

**6. Christianity: Practices**

* Worship, Prayer
* Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion
* Pilgrimage
* Celebrating Festivals (Easter and Christmas)
* The role of the church in the local community
* The place of mission and evangelism
* Church growth
* The importance of the worldwide church
* Christian persecution
* The Church’s response to world poverty

**7. Religion and Life**

* The origins of the universe
* The value of the world
* The use and abuse of the environment
* Animal Rights
* The origins of human life
* Abortion
* Euthanasia
* Death and afterlife

**8. Religion, Crime and Punishment**

* Reasons for crime
* Lawbreakers and different types of crime
* Suffering and causing suffering to others
* Three aims of punishment (retribution, deterrence, reformation)
* The treatment of criminals, prison, corporal punishment and community service
* Forgiveness
* The death penalty

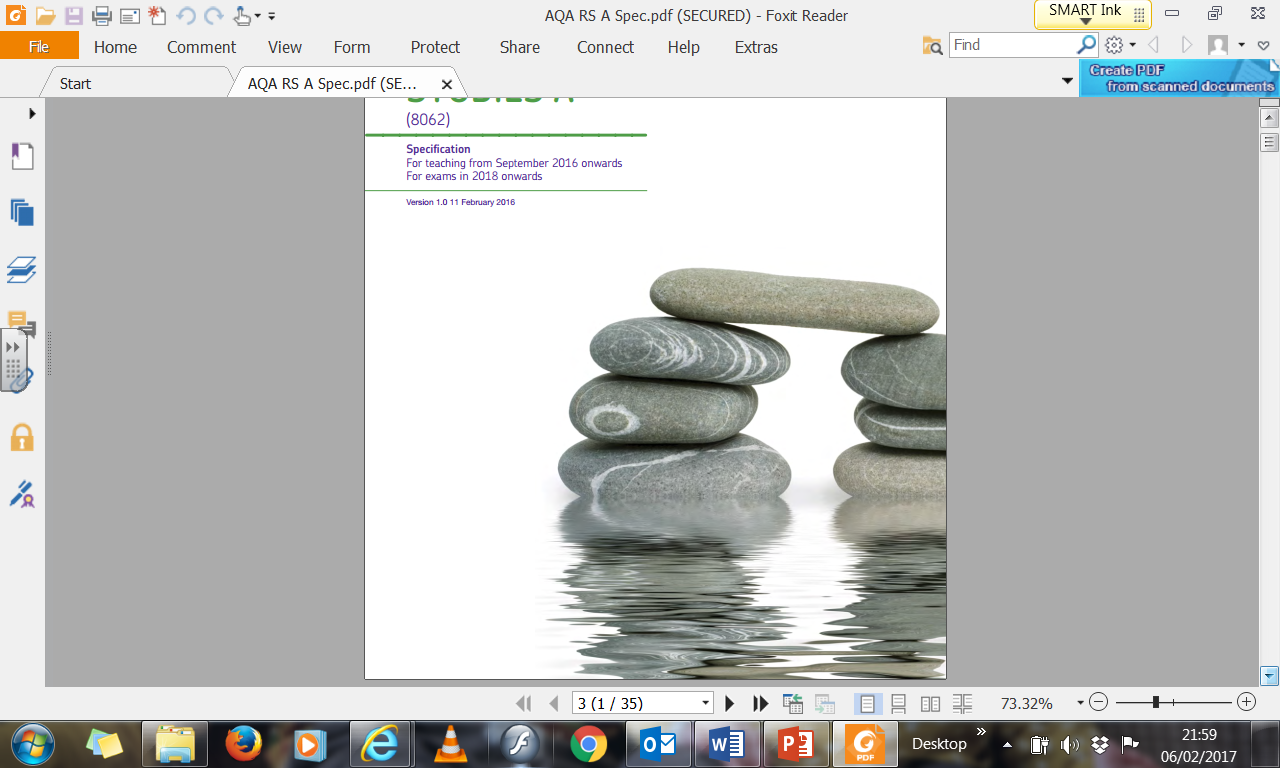
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**Programme of Assessment**

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| **Component 1:** The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices |
| **What’s assessed**  Beliefs, teachings and practices from:   * Christianity * Islam |
| **How it’s assessed**  Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (2019)   * 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))   **50% of GCSE** |

**+**

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| **Component 2:** Thematic Studies |
| **What’s assessed**  Four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes   * Theme A: Relationships and Families * Theme B: Religion and Life * Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict * Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment |
| **How it’s assessed**  Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (2019)   * 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))   **50% of GCSE** |





**AQA GCSE**

**Religious Studies A (Full Course)**

**Course Information**