

**GCSE Subject Level  
Conditions and  
Requirements for  
Religious Studies**  
June 2015



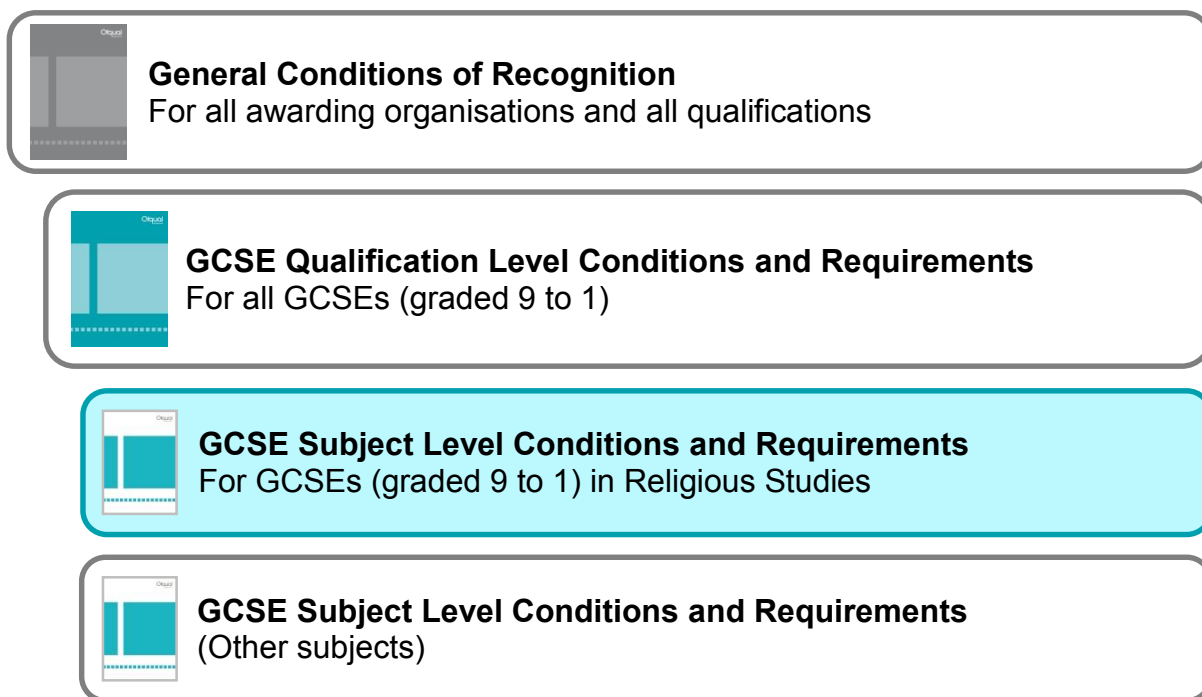
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# Introduction

## About this document

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out the regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering GCSE qualifications (graded from 9 to 1).



We have developed these requirements with the intention that GCSE qualifications (graded from 9 to 1) should fulfil the following purposes:

- To provide evidence of students' achievements against demanding and fulfilling content;
- To provide a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment; and
- To provide (if required) a basis for schools and colleges to be held accountable for the performance of all of their students.

## Requirements set out in this document

This document sets out the GCSE Subject Level Conditions for Religious Studies. These conditions will come into effect at 12.01am on Thursday 11 June for all GCSE qualifications (graded from 9 to 1) in Religious Studies.

It also sets out our requirements in relation to assessment objectives. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCSE(Religious Studies)1.2.

Appendix 1 reproduces the requirements in relation to subject content for GCSE Religious Studies,<sup>1</sup> as published by the Department for Education. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCSE(Religious Studies)1.1.

With respect to all GCSE Qualifications (graded from 9 to 1) in Religious Studies, awarding organisations must also comply with:

- our *General Conditions of Recognition*,<sup>2</sup> which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications;
- our *GCSE Qualification Level Conditions*,<sup>3</sup> and
- all relevant Regulatory Documents.<sup>4</sup>

With respect to GCSE qualifications graded from A\* to G, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the General Conditions of Recognition, and the relevant Regulatory Documents.

## Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
<a href="#">GCSE(Religious Studies)1</a>	<a href="#">Compliance with content requirements</a>

Assessment objectives
<a href="#">Assessment objectives – GCSE Qualifications in Religious Studies</a>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition)

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions)

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list)

**Appendix 1 – Subject content (published by Department for Education)**

[GCSE Religious Studies: subject content](#)

# Subject Level Conditions

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## GCSE Subject Level Conditions for Religious Studies

### Condition GCSE(Religious Studies)1

### Compliance with content requirements

GCSE(Religious  
Studies)1.1

In respect of each GCSE Qualification in Religious Studies which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must –

- (a) comply with the requirements relating to that qualification set out in the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Religious studies GCSE subject content',<sup>5</sup> document reference DFE-00045-2015,
- (b) have regard to any recommendations or guidelines relating to that qualification set out in that document, and
- (c) interpret that document in accordance with any requirements, and having regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

GCSE(Religious  
Studies)1.2

In respect of each GCSE Qualification in Religious Studies which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must comply with any requirements, and have regard to any guidance, relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for that qualification which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies)



# **Assessment objectives**

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## Assessment objectives – GCSE Qualifications in Religious Studies

Condition GCSE(Religious Studies)1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCSE Qualifications in Religious Studies.

The assessment objectives and additional requirements set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCSE(Religious Studies)1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements in relation to all GCSE Qualifications in Religious Studies they make available or propose to make available.

	Objective	Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, <sup>6</sup> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ beliefs, practices and sources of authority</li> <li>■ influence on individuals, communities and societies</li> <li>■ similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.</li> </ul>	50%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.	50%

In respect of each GCSE Qualification in Religious Studies which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must –

- (a) ensure that the total mark for the qualification consists of –
- (i) marks allocated to assessment objectives AO1 to AO2 in line with the weightings outlined above (the ‘subject marks’), and
  - (ii) marks used to credit the accuracy of Learners’ spelling, punctuation and grammar and their use of specialist terminology, and
- (b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that the number of marks available to credit the accuracy of Learners’ spelling, punctuation and grammar and their use of specialist terminology is equal to 5 per cent of the subject marks.

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<sup>6</sup> Throughout this document, the term ‘belief’ includes religious beliefs and non-religious beliefs as appropriate to the subject content requirements.

# Subject content (published by Department for Education)

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