

Advance information June 2022

GCSE Religious Studies A 8062

Version 1.0

Because of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are providing advance information on the focus of June 2022 exams to help students revise.

This is the advance information for GCSE Religious Studies A 8062.

Information

- This advance information covers Paper 1 (The study of religions components).
- There is no advance information for Paper 2 (Thematic Studies).
- The information below identifies the main subject topic areas used as the primary focus of questions in the 2022 assessments.
- The information for each Religion is presented in specification order and not in question order.
- It is **not** permitted to take this notice into the examination.

Advice

- Students may need to draw on other specification content within their responses to be able to access the full range of marks.

Focus of the June 2022 exam

Component 1: The study of religions

8062/11 Buddhism

Beliefs and teachings

- The human personality, in the Theravada and Mahayana traditions:
 - Theravada: the Five Aggregates (skandhas) of form, sensation, perception, mental formations, consciousness.
- Human destiny:
 - Buddhahood and the Pure Land.
- The Buddha's life and its significance:
 - the birth of the Buddha and his life of luxury

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- the Four Sights: illness, old age, death, holy man (Jataka 075)
 - the Buddha's Enlightenment.

 - The Four Noble Truths:
 - suffering (dukkha) including different types of suffering
 - the causes of suffering (samudaya); the Three Poisons, ignorance, greed and hate
 - the end of craving (tanha).

Practices

- The nature, use and importance of Buddhist places of worship including temples, shrines, monasteries (viharas), halls for meditation or learning (gompas) and their key features including Buddha rupa, artefacts and offerings.
- Meditation, the different aims, significance and methods of meditation:
 - Samatha (concentration and tranquillity) including mindfulness of breathing
 - Vipassana (insight) including zazen.
- The practice and significance of different ceremonies and rituals associated with death and mourning in Theravada communities and in Japan and Tibet.
- Ethical teaching:
 - kamma (karma) and rebirth
 - compassion (karuna).

8062/12 Catholic Christianity

Beliefs and teachings

- One God as a Trinity of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as expressed in the Nicene Creed; the scriptural origins of this belief and its development in the Council of Nicaea.
- Redemption: the significance of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus for Catholic beliefs about salvation and grace.
- Beliefs about life after death: resurrection, judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory.
- The meaning and significance of 'sacrament' and the importance of the sacramental nature of reality.
- The names, meanings and effects of the seven sacraments:
 - anointing of the sick.

Practices

- Prayer:
 - prayer as 'the raising of the mind and heart to God'
 - formal prayers and informal prayer, including different views about their relative importance.
- The role and importance of forms of popular piety including the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.
- Catholic beliefs about the essential duty to 'love our neighbour' in concrete ways locally, nationally and globally and how these beliefs are reflected in:
 - Catholic social teaching including Gaudium et Spes paragraph 26
 - Catholic teaching on justice, peace and reconciliation
 - The work of Catholic agencies including CAFOD, Trocaire, Missio.

8062/13 Christianity

Beliefs and teachings

- The nature of God:
 - 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.
- Beliefs and teachings about:
 - the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension
 - the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit
 - the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement.

Practices

- The role and meaning of the sacraments:
 - the sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers' baptism; different beliefs about infant baptism.
- The role and importance of celebrations including:
 - the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today.
- The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.
- The importance of the worldwide Church including:
 - working for reconciliation
 - how Christian churches respond to persecution.

8062/14 Hinduism

Beliefs and teachings

- Different understandings of the three features of the divine:
 - everywhere, as non-personal (brahman)
 - within the heart
 - beyond, as a personal loving God.
- Matter (prakriti); the three qualities (tri-guna); illusion (maya); cosmology (Rig Veda 10.129.6–7); the cycle of four ages; many worlds and their diverse inhabitants.
- Cycle of birth and death: samsara; moral action and reaction: the law of karma; types of liberation: moksha.
- Individual free will and responses to suffering; knowledge and ignorance.
- The four aims of human life: dharma, artha, kama, moksha.
- The meaning of dharma; sanatana dharma; varnashrama dharma.

Practices

- Different forms of worship/meditation and their significance: havan, puja, arati, darshan, bhajan/kirtan, japa/mantra.
- Focuses of worship and representations of the divine and their importance:
 - one God (personal or non-personal)
 - the many deities, gurus and other elders
 - holy land, hills and rivers
 - sacred plants and animals.
- Sacred festivals and their importance for Hindus in Great Britain today, including the origins and meaning of:
 - Diwali.
- The work and significance of:
 - Hindu environmental projects including 'cow protection' and their significance.

8062/15 Islam

Beliefs and teachings

- The nature of God: omnipotence, beneficence, mercy, fairness and justice/Adalat in Shi'a Islam, including different ideas about God's relationship with the world: immanence and transcendence.
- Angels, their nature and role, including Jibril and Mika'il.
- Risalah (Prophethood) including the role and importance of Adam, Ibrahim and Muhammad.
- The holy books:
 - 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.

Practices

- 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: Jummah; key differences in the practice of salah in Sunni and Shi'a Islam, and different Muslim views about the importance of prayer.
- 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.
- 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.

8062/16 Judaism

Beliefs and teachings

- The nature of God:
 - God as Law-Giver and Judge, loving and merciful.
- The nature and role of the Messiah, including different views on the role and importance of the Messiah.
- The promised land and the Covenant with Abraham, Genesis 12:1–3.
- The Covenant at Sinai and its importance including the role of Moses and the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1–17.
- Key moral principles including justice, healing the world, charity and kindness to others.

Practices

- The synagogue and its importance.
- Public acts of worship including:
 - synagogue services in both Orthodox and Reform synagogues.
- Shabbat in the home and synagogue and its significance.
- Rituals and their significance:
 - Bar and Bat Mitzvah.
- Dietary laws and their significance, including different Jewish views about their importance.
 - kosher and trefah.
- Festivals and their importance for Jews in Great Britain today, including the origins and meaning of:
 - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

8062/17 Sikhism

Beliefs and teachings

- The nature of God as expressed in the Mool Mantra: the content and significance of the Mool Mantra, Guru Granth Sahib (GGS) 1a.
- The nature of human life as an opportunity to unite with God, including the development of Sikh virtues such as wisdom, truthful living, justice, temperance, self-control, patience, courage, humility, contentment.
- Beliefs in karma and rebirth, and the aim of mukti; the meaning of mukti, including the different aspects of mukti – positive and negative.
- The five stages of liberation (five khands) and barriers to mukti (illusion, self-centredness, lust, anger, greed, worldly attachment, pride).
- The expression of the equality of all in:
 - the stories of the lives of Gurus, including Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh
 - the Guru Granth Sahib
 - in Sikhism today.

Practices

- The role of the gurdwara within the Sikh community.
- The meaning and significance of langar as an expression of sewa.
- Festivals and their importance for Sikhs in Great Britain today, including the origins and significance of the following:
 - Divali
 - Gurpurbs, including Guru Nanak's birthday and differences in the way gurpurbs are celebrated in India and Great Britain.
- The initiation ceremony (Amrit Sanskar), including the meaning and importance of the Khalsa and the five Ks, and the different perspectives of sahajdhari and amritdhari Sikhs.

END OF ADVANCE INFORMATION