



GCE Interim Examiners' Report

Religious Studies
AS Level
Summer 2024

Introduction

This report provides a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved within the qualification as a whole. A final report providing detailed commentary on candidate performance in each unit will be provided by 30th September 2024.

Executive Summary

The total entry for 2024 has risen slightly. Age 17 accounts for 86.0% of entries, an increase of 8.6% compared to 2019. The majority of candidates were females at 77.9% and 83.0% sat through the medium of English. There was an increase in the number of candidates from Wales from 97.1% to 97.9% in 2024. Centre type shows variation in candidates entering at Secondary schools decreased from 84.9% to 78.5%.

Outcomes are down slightly at grade A (-2.5%) in comparison to 2023, but up slightly at grades B-E. The outcomes in 2024 are above those awarded in 2019 at all grade points.

Positive aspects of candidates' examination responses this year:

- **use of sources of wisdom and authority / understanding of named scholars:** Higher-scoring candidates demonstrated a strong grasp of the named scholarly perspectives and also utilised accurate and relevance references to sources of wisdom and authority
- **an awareness of diversity:** successful candidates effectively showcased the diversity within the religion they have studied
- **candidates used relevant scriptural passages and modern theories or scholars to support their AO2 lines of reasoning.**

Issues for centres to consider:

- **poor handwriting was a serious concern** noted by many senior examiners this year. This highlights the need for appropriate access arrangements to be made by centres. Centres need to be aware of the state of their candidates' handwriting for (i) an extended period (the length of the exam) (ii) under exam conditions. Some responses given by candidates this year were simply unreadable and credit can be awarded in these cases (see Areas for Improvement 1: classroom resources)
- **not focusing on the question set:** a recurring issue was the failure of some candidates to fully address the questions set, often focusing on one part of the question or diverging into tangential issues. This highlights a need for better comprehension of the command words and key phrases in questions (see Areas for Improvement 2: classroom resources)
- **not providing balanced analysis and evaluation:** There was a general lack of balanced analysis and evaluation, with many responses lacking alternative viewpoints or critical engagement. Develop skills in critical analysis and evaluation, ensuring that candidates provide balanced arguments with supporting evidence. (see Areas for Improvement 3: developing AO2 skills)

Areas for improvement	Classroom resources	Brief description of resource
1. Access arrangements for candidates with poor handwriting.	Special Requirements (wjec.co.uk)	Information on the support available and the procedures required.
2. Identifying key command words and phrases within each question – to select key information to address the question	Guidance For Teaching Document Exam Walkthroughs	<p>Useful resources and a list of the question command words and their meaning.</p> <p>Shows how to break down each question, plan and select relevant information to address the question.</p>
3. Developing AO2 skills - in critical analysis and evaluation, ensuring that candidates provide balanced arguments with supporting evidence	DEVELOPING AO1 AND AO2 SKILLS (PL 2023)	Some tips on how to structure/improve AO1 and AO2 responses including key phrases.

Further support

Document	Description	Link
Professional Learning / CPD	WJEC offers an extensive programme of online and face-to-face Professional Learning events. Access interactive feedback, review example candidate responses, gain practical ideas for the classroom and put questions to our dedicated team by registering for one of our events here.	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/
Past papers	Access the bank of past papers for this qualification, including the most recent assessments. Please note that we do not make past papers available on the public website until 12 months after the examination.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page
Grade boundary information	<p>Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade.</p> <p>For unitised specifications, grade boundaries are expressed on a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). UMS grade boundaries remain the same every year as the range of UMS mark percentages allocated to a particular grade does not change. UMS grade boundaries are published at overall subject and unit level.</p> <p>For linear specifications, a single grade is awarded for the subject, rather than for each unit that contributes towards the overall grade. Grade boundaries are published on results day.</p>	For unitised specifications click here: Results, Grade Boundaries and PRS (wjec.co.uk)
Exam Results Analysis	WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC Portal. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.	Portal by WJEC
Classroom Resources	Access our extensive range of FREE classroom resources, including blended learning materials, exam walk-throughs and knowledge organisers to support teaching and learning.	https://resources.wjec.co.uk/

Bank of Professional Learning materials	Access our bank of Professional Learning materials from previous events from our secure website and additional pre-recorded materials available in the public domain.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page.
Become an examiner with WJEC.	We are always looking to recruit new examiners or moderators. These opportunities can provide you with valuable insight into the assessment process, enhance your skill set, increase your understanding of your subject and inform your teaching.	Become an Examiner WJEC

Supporting you

Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: **029 2240 4274**

Email: **GCEReligiousStudies@wjec.co.uk**

Qualification webpage: [AS/A Level Religious Studies \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/AS/A-Level/Religious-Studies)

See other useful contacts here: [Useful Contacts | WJEC](#)

CPD Training / Professional Learning

Access our popular, free online CPD/PL courses to receive exam feedback and put questions to our subject team, and attend one of our face-to-face events, focused on enhancing teaching and learning, providing practical classroom ideas and developing understanding of marking and assessment.

Please find details for all our courses here: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/>

WJEC Qualifications

As Wales' largest awarding body, WJEC supports its education community by providing trusted bilingual qualifications, specialist support, and reliable assessment to schools and colleges across the country. This allows our learners to reach their full potential.

With more than 70 years' experience, we are also amongst the leading providers in both England and Northern Ireland.



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