

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

Anthology of Sources of Wisdom & Authority

Only the texts that are prescribed in the specification are *compulsory*, the other references could be helpful for understanding the beliefs and perspectives of each faith, and they could be paraphrased or referenced as appropriate.

Resource Notes:

- Biblical references below cite the New International Version translation.
- All translations are open to a degree of interpretation from the original, and ancient, languages. Accepted translations and contexts are not restricted to the versions cited below.

Christianity

Teaching	Source of Authority	Specification
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.	John 1:1–3	Prescribed 3.1.2.1 Beliefs – Key beliefs (page 13) Themes – Religion and life Themes – The existence of God and revelation
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.	Genesis 1:1–3.	Prescribed 3.1.2.1 Beliefs – Key beliefs (page 13) Themes – Religion and life Themes – The existence of God and revelation

Other Helpful Teachings

Teaching	Source of Authority	Specification topics
I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no others gods before me.	Exodus 20:2-3	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – The existence of God and revelation
Nothing is impossible with God.	Luke 1:37	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – The existence of God and revelation

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.	John 3:16	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Themes – Religion and life Themes – The existence of God and revelation
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead: I believe in..... The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.	The Apostle's Creed	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Practices – Worship and festivals Themes – Religion and life
The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.	John 1:14	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said 'You are my Son'.	Mark 1:11	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Practices – Worship and festivals
I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.	John 14:6	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Themes – Religion and life
For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead, also comes through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.	1 Corinthians 15:21	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Themes – Religion and life

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures	Nicene Creed	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Practices – Worship and festivals Themes – Religion and life
But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.	Mark 16:4-5	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."	Romans 6:23	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Themes – Religion and life
My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world.	Billy Graham	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Themes – Religion and life

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.	Ephesians 2:8-9	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
Here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.	Ecclesiastes 12:13	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.	Psalms 119:97-98	Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation Practices – The role of the church
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name....	The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)	Beliefs – Key beliefs Practices – Worship and festivals
Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God.	Billy Graham	Practices – Worship and festivals
I pray mentally even when I am waiting at the dentist or at other times of the day	Pope Francis	Practices – Worship and festivals
While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is	Matthew 26:26-28	Practices – Worship and festivals Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation

poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"		
As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a Lady dressed in white...	St Bernadette (describing her vision of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes)	Practices – Worship and festivals
Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! O Universe, dance around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation, radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King! Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you! Darkness vanishes for ever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you! Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.	Church of England Easter liturgy (Easter Song of Praise)	Practices – Worship and festivals Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead	James 2:17	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment
Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.	1 Corinthians 12:27	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
I look upon the whole world as my parish.	John Wesley	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat....I was in prison and you came to visit me	Matthew 25:35-36 (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness	Matthew 5:10	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice

I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle.....The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you.	Pope Francis	Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Beliefs – Key beliefs
Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable	Leviticus 18:22	Themes – Relationships and families
You shall not commit adultery	Exodus 20:14	Themes – Relationships and families
Every sexual act should have the possibility of creating new life	Humanae Vitae (1968 RC papal encyclical)	Themes – Relationships and families Themes – Religion and life
That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh	Genesis 2:24	Themes – Relationships and families Themes – Religion and life
You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.	Desmond Tutu	Themes – Relationships and families Themes – Religion and life

In their marriage promises, the spouses pledge love and fidelity for as long as they live.	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <i>Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan</i> 16	Themes – Relationships and families
Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever	1 Timothy 5:8	Themes – Relationships and families Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus	Galatians 3:28	Themes – Relationships and families Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – religion, crime and punishment
Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness	Genesis 1:27	Themes – Religion and life Themes – Relationships and families Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Beliefs – Key beliefs
God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the	Genesis 1:28	Themes – Religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs

fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”		
The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it	Psalms 24:1	Themes – Religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – The existence of God and revelation
The righteous care for the needs of their animals	Proverbs 12:10	Themes – Religion and life
Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you	Genesis 9:3	Themes – Religion and life
“We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that ‘not one of them is forgotten before God’ (Lk 12:6). How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm?”	Pope Francis (<i>Laudato Si</i> 2015)	Themes – Religion and life

<p>Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care.....Thus men owe them kindness. We should recall the gentleness with which saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Philip Neri treated animals.</p> <p>God entrusted animals to the stewardship of those whom he created in his own image. Hence it is legitimate to use animals for food and clothing.....Medical and scientific experimentation on animals is a morally acceptable practice if it remains within reasonable limits and contributes to caring for or saving human lives.</p> <p>It is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly</p>	<p>Catechism of the Catholic Church 24162418</p>	<p>Themes – Religion and life</p>
<p>Before I formed you in the womb I knew you</p>	<p>Jeremiah 1:5</p>	<p>Themes – Religion and life</p>
<p>Blessed are the merciful</p>	<p>Matthew 5:7</p>	<p>Themes – Religion and life Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, peace and conflict</p>
<p>Where there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams</p>	<p>Numbers 12:6</p>	<p>Themes – The existence of God and revelation</p>
<p>They will beat their swords into</p>	<p>Isaiah 2:4</p>	<p>Themes – religion, peace and</p>

<p>ploughshares</p>		<p>conflict</p>
<p>If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also</p>	<p>Matthew 5:39</p>	<p>Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment</p>
<p>The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil</p>	<p>1 Timothy 6:10</p>	<p>Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church</p>
<p>The purpose of all wars is peace</p>	<p>St Augustine</p>	<p>Themes – religion, peace and conflict</p>

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities	Romans 13:1	Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – religion, peace and conflict
God's love is too great to be confined to any one side of a conflict or to any one religion	Desmond Tutu	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Love your neighbour as yourself	Mark 12:31	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – religion, crime and punishment Practices – The role of the church
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us	The Lord's Prayer	Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Women should remain silent in the churches	1 Corinthians 14:34-35	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – Religion and life
Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me	Matthew 25:40	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
Do no exploit the poor because they are poor	Proverbs 22:22	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can	John Wesley	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'	Martin Luther King Jnr	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
I look to a day when people will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.	Martin Luther King Jnr	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.	Martin Luther King Jnr	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
Without forgiveness, there's no future	Desmond Tutu	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment