

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
 EDUCATION**

DATE: 1ST NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT GCSE SPECIFICATIONS (UPDATE)

SACRE has been regularly updated on progress with regard to the revised specifications for GCSE and A/AS Level examination courses. SACRE agreed that any information should be shared with schools as soon as possible after receiving any updates from WJEC to help RE departments in their planning and preparation of schemes of work and for teaching the revised specifications.

The A/AS level specifications have been approved and are in place for first teaching from September 2016

The GCSE specifications were delayed and therefore deferred by Qualifications Wales until first teaching in 2017. However, there has been an issue for those schools that start the GCSE courses early (e.g. Year 9) because they will need to start teaching from the new specifications in September 2016 therefore they are anxious to receive an outline of the new specification for GCSE by autumn 2016. .

In **September 2016** SACRE wrote to all schools and SACRE members giving them an update on the current situation regarding the revised GCSE specification (see attached letter and email from Lynda Maddock, GCSE Subject Officer for WJEC)

Recommendation:

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the revised specifications for GCSE

TO: All secondary schools in the local authority

September 18th 2016

Dear Colleague

I am writing to give you an update on the current situation regarding the revised GCSE specification. This is the most up to date information that I have received from Lynda Maddock, GCSE Examinations Officer and I am sure it will prove useful to you and your department preparing your schemes of work and for teaching the revised specifications. This is a summary of where the revision process is at present. See italicised comment from WJEC below.

WJEC say that they are very close to accreditation now. The Draft specification is on the WJEC website (especially for those who have already started with year 9). SAMS are just being translated now and will then be placed on the website also.

*There is a wealth of resources available on the Eduqas website and it is probably worth schools buying a copy of the Hodder book for Eduqas (as lots of content is similar) when it is released on **Oct 28th**. There will be a text book for Wales but because of deferral, Hodder are not rushing with it.*

SACRE has been regularly updated on progress with regard to the revised Specifications and has agreed that this information should be shared with you so that you can be updated on the matter as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Thomas
Consultant to SACRE

Email correspondence regarding GCSE Religious Studies Specifications.

From: Maddock, Lynda [Lynda.Maddock@wjec.co.uk]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 2:50 PM
To: Libby Jones; vickyathomas@hotmail.co.uk
Cc: philiplord@gwegogledd.cymru; Mary Parry
Subject: FW: WJEC Eduqas GCSE RS Sample

Hello All,

In order to alleviate Teachers' concerns somewhat, please find below a link to some sample chapters from the text book that Hodder has written for our Eduqas specification. The full book will be available in about a month.

Obviously, it won't contain any Welsh dimension and it does not suit our draft Wales spec perfectly, but it will still be useful because there is a good deal of overlap, particularly with the Philosophical /Ethical themes section.

So, for teachers in Wales, who have started Life and Death in year 9, this sample will be very useful. Similarly, if teachers have started with Christianity or Islam from the draft spec, then there will be useful material here.

Please feel free to forward this widely.

Quals Wales have now received my amended SAMS document...and I wait in hope!

All the best.

Lynda

From: Education Religious Education [mailto:Religious.Education@hoddereducation.co.uk]
Sent: 14 September 2016 16:00
Subject: WJEC Eduqas GCSE RS Sample

Many thanks for expressing an interest in our WJEC Eduqas GCSE RS resources.

We now have 3 sample chapters available for you to download from our website. These can be found at the following link under the heading 'Sample Chapters': <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/GCSERS/WJECeduqas>

A free draft online version of the student book will be available by the end of next week. A email will be sent to you to explain how to access your free copy as soon as this is ready.

Many thanks
RS Team