

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	<p>Prescribed</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Beliefs – Key beliefs (page 13)</p> <p>Themes – Religion and life</p> <p>Themes – The existence of God and revelation</p>
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.	<p>Prescribed</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Beliefs – Key beliefs (page 13)</p> <p>Themes – Religion and life</p> <p>Themes – The existence of God and revelation</p>

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	<p>Beliefs – Key beliefs</p> <p>Themes – The existence of God and revelation</p>
Nothing is impossible with God.	Luke 1:37	<p>Beliefs – Key beliefs</p> <p>Themes – The existence of God and revelation</p>

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 had 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

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 poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"	Matthew 26:26-28	Practices – Worship and festivals Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs – Jesus Christ and salvation
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

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>	Catechism of the Catholic Church 2416-2418	Themes – Religion and life
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you	Jeremiah 1:5	Themes – Religion and life
Blessed are the merciful	Matthew 5:7	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

Where there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams	Numbers 12:6	Themes – The existence of God and revelation
They will beat their swords into ploughshares	Isaiah 2:4	conflict
If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also	Matthew 5:39	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment
The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil	1 Timothy 6:10	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – The role of the church
The purpose of all wars is peace	St Augustine	Themes – religion, peace and conflict
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
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

Islam

Teaching	Source of Authority	Specification
Say, "He is God the One, God the eternal. He begot no one nor was He begotten. No one is comparable to Him.	Qur'an 112	Prescribed: 3.1.5.1 The Oneness of God (Tawhid) (page 17)
Read: In the Name of your Lord who created. Created man from a clot. Read: And your Lord is the Most Generous. He who taught by the pen. Taught man what he never knew.	Qur'an 96:1–5.	Prescribed: 3.1.5.2 The Night of Power (page 18) NB could also use for: Beliefs – Authority Themes – Religion and life Themes – existence of God and revelation

Other useful teachings

Teaching	Source of Authority	Specification
You who believe, obey God and the Messenger	Qur'an 4:59	Beliefs – Key beliefs, Authority Themes – existence of God and revelation

The Most Excellent names belong to God: use them to call on Him	Qur'an 7:180	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – existence of God and revelation
He is with you wherever you are	Qur'an 57:4	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – existence of God and revelation
This is God, your Lord....the Creator of all things	Qur'an 6:102	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – Religion and life Themes – existence of God and revelation
Praise be to God....who made angels messengers with two, three, four (pairs of) wings	Qur'an 35:1	Beliefs – Key beliefs
Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over Him by God's command	Qur'an 13:11	Beliefs – Key beliefs
Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer, and pay the prescribed alms will have their reward with their Lord	Qur'an 2:277	Beliefs – Key beliefs, Authority Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals Themes – existence of God and revelation Themes – religion and life Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Allah will cause those who believed and acted righteously to enter the Gardens beneath which rivers flow. They shall be decked in them with bracelets of gold and pearls and their raiment shall be of silk.	Qur'an 22:23	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – religion and life
Every community is sent a messenger	Qur'an 10:47	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs - Authority
He first created man from clay....then He moulded him; He breathed from His Spirit into him	Qur'an 30:20	Beliefs – Key beliefs Themes – Religion and life Themes – existence of God and revelation
We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the night of Qadr: And what will explain to thee what	Qur'an 97:1-5	Beliefs – Key beliefs Beliefs - Authority

<p>the night of Qadr is? The night of Qadr is better than a thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace! This until the rise of dawn!</p>		
<p>God took Ibrahim as a friend</p>	<p>Qur'an 4:125</p>	<p>Beliefs – Authority Themes – existence of God and revelation</p>
<p>Muhammad....he is God's Messenger and the seal of the prophets</p>	<p>Qur'an 33:40</p>	<p>Beliefs – Key beliefs, Authority Themes – existence of God and revelation</p>
<p>This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt</p>	<p>Qur'an 2:2</p>	<p>Beliefs – Key beliefs, Authority Themes – existence of God and revelation</p>
<p>You who believe, when you are about to pray, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, wipe your heads, wash your feet up to the ankles and, if required, wash your whole body</p>	<p>Qur'an 5:6</p>	<p>Practices – Worship</p>
<p>Your Lord says, 'Call on Me and I will answer you'</p>	<p>Qur'an 40:60</p>	<p>Beliefs – Key beliefs Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals</p>
<p>Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hurry towards the reminder of God and leave off your trading</p>	<p>Qur'an 62:9</p>	<p>Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals</p>
<p>The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was revealed</p>	<p>Qur'an 2:18</p>	<p>Beliefs – Authority Practices – Duties and festivals</p>
<p>'Verily it is only a festival for he whose fasts Allah has accepted and whose prayers He has acknowledged, and every day in which one does not disobey Allah is a day of celebration.'</p>	<p>Imam Ali (Shia Islam)</p>	<p>Practices – Duties and festivals</p>

Alms are meant only for the poor, the needy	Qur'an 9:60	Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to take it.	Qur'an 3:97	Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals
This is My path, leading straight, so follow it	Qur'an 6:153	Beliefs – Key beliefs, Authority Practices – Worship, Duties and festivals
Marry those who are single among you for (God) will develop their moral traits (through marriage)	Hadith	Themes – relationships & families
Must you....lust after males and abandon the wives God has created for you?	Qur'an 26:165	Themes – relationships & families
A man should not stay with a woman in seclusion unless he is a relative	Hadith	Themes – relationships & families Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
And do not go near adultery: it is an outrage, and an evil path	Hadith	Themes – relationships & families
Heaven is under the feet of the mothers	Hadith	Themes – relationships & families Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Honour your children and perfect their manners	Hadith	Themes – relationships & families
People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognise on another	Qur'an 49:13	Themes – relationships & families Themes – religion and life Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
It is He who had made you successors on earth	Qur'an 6:165	Themes – religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs

It is to God that everything in the heavens and earth belongs: God is fully aware of all things	Qur'an 4:126	Themes – religion and life Themes – existence of God and revelation Beliefs – Key beliefs
Eat and drink, but do not be extravagant	Qur'an 7:31	Themes – religion and life Themes – religion and social justice
Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that, without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement	Hadith	Themes – religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs
You were lifeless and He gave you life	Qur'an 2:28	Themes – religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs
Do not kill your children for fear of poverty.....killing them is a great sin	Qur'an 17:31	Themes – religion and life
If anyone kills a person – unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land – it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all of mankind	Qur'an 5:32	Themes – religion and life Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Do not take life which God has made sacred, except by right	Qur'an 17:33	Themes – religion and life Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, peace and conflict
Among His signs too, are that He shows you the lightening that terrifies and inspires hope; that He sends water down from the sky to restore the earth to life after death	Qur'an 30:24	Themes – existence of God and revelation Themes – religion and life Beliefs – Key beliefs
Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged	Qur'an 22:39	Themes – religion, peace and conflict
There is cause to act against those who oppress people.....though if a person is patient and forgives, this is one of the greatest things	Qur'an 42-43	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands,	Qur'an 2:195	Themes – religion, peace and conflict

but do good, for God loves those who do good		Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – Duties and festivals
God commands justice...and prohibits wrongdoing and injustice	Qur'an 16:90	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Be compassionate towards the destitute	Hadith	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Practices – Duties and festivals
Pardon each other's faults and God will grant you honour	Hadith	Themes – religion, peace and conflict Themes – religion, crime and punishment Themes – religion, human rights and social justice
Now the truth has come from your	Qur'an 18:29	Themes – religion, human
Lord: let those who wish to believe in it do so, and let those who wish to reject it do so		rights and social justice Themes – existence of God and revelation
Anyone, male or female, who does good works and is a believer, will enter paradise	Qur'an 4:124	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – existence of God and revelation Themes – relationships and families Beliefs – Key beliefs
Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy , to neighbours near and far	Qur'an 4:36	Themes – religion, human rights and social justice Themes – relationships and families Beliefs – Key beliefs Practices – Duties and festivals