Questions matter

Resource list

Introduction

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A (8062) Paper 1 and GCSE Religious Studies Short Course (8061) religions: for each religion of study there are two **required** texts within the specification.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification B (8063) Paper 2 Islam or Judaism: for each religion of study there are two **required** texts within the specification.

For sources **additional** to these, we have listed below a selection of potentially useful references for each religion option. Centres have the flexibility to use a range of texts as appropriate.

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Buddhism

Teaching	Source of authority
Attachment is the root of suffering.	Buddha
All conditioned things are impermanent.	Dhammapada 277-9
Suffering I teach, and the way out of it.	Buddha
If you walk the path, you will arrive at the end of suffering.	Buddha
My religion is simple, my religion is kindness.	HH The 14th Dalai Lama
Radiate boundless love towards the entire world — above, below, and across — unhindered, without ill will, without enmity.	The Buddha (from the Metta Sutta)
One is not called noble who harms living beings. By not harming living beings one is called noble.	Dhammapada 27
The truth of suffering is like a disease….and the truth of the path is like the medicine.	Buddhaghosa
I believe that at every level of society, the key to a happier and more successful world is the growth of compassion.	HH The 14th Dalai Lama
I believe that not only should we keep our relationship with our other fellow human beings very gentle and non-violent, but it is also very important to extend that kind of attitude to the natural environment.	HH The 14th Dalai Lama
All tremble at violence; all fear death…one should not kill or cause to kill.	Dhammapada 129
No one saves us but ourselves, No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path, but Buddha has clearly shown the way.	Dhammapada 165
Just as the great ocean has one taste, the taste of salt, so also this teaching and discipline has one taste, the taste of liberation.	Buddha (from the Udana)
So, you should view this fleeting world As a star at dawn, a bubble in a stream, A flash of lightning in a summer cloud, A flickering lamp, a phantom, and a dream.	The Diamond Sutra
If all the harm, fear, and suffering in the world occur due to grasping on to the self, what use is that great demon to me?	Shantideva (Indian Buddhist monk, 8th century)

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Christianity

Teaching	Source of authority
Nothing is impossible with God.	Luke 1:37
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
When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said, 'You are my Son'.	Mark 1:11
I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.	John 14:6
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat….I was in prison and you came to visit me….Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.	Matthew 25 (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)
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
Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.	Genesis 1:27
God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'	Genesis 1:28
The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.	Psalm 24:1
The righteous care for the needs of their animals.	Proverbs 12:10
If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.	Matthew 5:39
Love your neighbour as yourself.	Mark 12:31
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.	The Lord's Prayer
Blessed are the merciful….Blessed are the peacemakers….Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.	Mattthew 5 (The Beatitudes/Sermon on the Mount)
Go and make disciples of all nations.	Matthew 28:19

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Hinduism

Teaching	Source of authority
All this universe is in truth Brahman. He is the beginning and end and life of all.	Chandogya Upanishad 3.14
His father said, 'O my son, you cannot see the Atman. But in truth he is here.'	Chandogya Upanishad 6.12
[Atman] Never born and eternal, beyond times gone or to come, he does not die when the body dies.	Katha Upanishad 2.18
As you put on fresh new clothes and take off those you've worn, You'll replace your body with a fresh one, newly born.	Bhagavad Gita 2.22
Having gained supreme perfection, the great souled ones who come to Me never find reincarnation that transient home of misery.	Bhagavad Gita 8.15
Be friendly and compassionate released from ego, selfishness, patient, hate not any being, the same in pain and happiness.	Bhagavad Gita 12.13
Whatever you do, make it an offering to me – the food you eat, the sacrifices you make, the help you give, even your suffering.	Bhagavad Gita 9.27
The chariot of the mind is drawn by wild horses, and those wild horses have to be tamed.	Svetasvatara Upanishad 2
The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.	Mahatma Gandhi
Since killing is contrary to the principles of ahimsa, one must give up eating meat.	Manusmirti 5.52
By forgiveness it is that the whole universe is held together.	Mahabharata
God is one, but wise men call Him by many names.	Rig Veda
When a man knows God, he is free…	Svetasvatara Upanishad 1
He moves and he moves not. He is far, and he is near. He is within all and he is outside of all.	Isa Upanishad 1.5
One may amass wealth with hundreds of hands but one should also distribute it with thousands of hands.	Atharva Veda 3.24-5

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Islam

Teaching	Source of authority
You who believe, obey Allah and the Messenger.	Qur'an 4:59
"Allah is the Creator of all things."	Qur'an 39:62
Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over Him by Allah's command.	Qur'an 13:11
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
He first created man from clay….then He moulded him; He breathed from His Spirit into him.	Qur'an 30:20
Muhammad….he is Allah's Messenger and the seal of the prophets.	Qur'an 33:40
It is He who had made you successors on earth.	Qur'an 6:165
It is to Allah that everything in the heavens and earth belongs: Allah is fully aware of all things.	Qur'an 4:126
Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that, without a just cause, Allah will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgement.	Hadith
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
Do not take life which Allah has made sacred, except by right.	Qur'an 17:33
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
Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for Allah loves those who do good.	Qur'an 2:195
Allah commands justice…and prohibits wrongdoing and injustice.	Qur'an 16:90
Anyone, male or female, who does good works and is a believer, will enter paradise.	Qur'an 4:124
Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy, to neighbours near and far.	Qur'an 4:36
All human beings are equal like the teeth of a comb.	Hadith

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Judaism

Teaching	Source of authority
Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might.	Deuteronomy 6:4-5
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.	Genesis 1:1-3
The Lord said to Abraham....I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great.	Genesis 12:1-2
They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.	Micah 4:3
But let justice well up like water, righteousness like an unfailing stream.	Amos 5:24
Rather, treat the foreigner staying with you like the native-born among you — you are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.	Leviticus 19:34
Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.	Talmud (Sanhedrin)
Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.	Genesis 1:27
God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."	Genesis 1:28
The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.	Psalms 24:1
The righteous care for the needs of their animals.	Proverbs 12:10
Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.	Jeremiah 1:5
Human being, you have already been told what is good, what God demands of you —no more than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.	Micah 6:8
Love your neighbour as yourself.	Leviticus 19:18
Do not exploit the poor because they are poor.	Proverbs 22:22
Do not profit by the blood of your fellow.	Leviticus 19:16

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Sikhism

Teaching	Source of authority
The Lord of the Universe is invisible, infinite and unlimited.	Guru Granth Sahib 448
Forever and ever, He is the One, the One Universal Creator. Many millions are created in various forms. From God they emanate, and into God they merge once again.	Guru Granth Sahib 276
Truth is higher than everything; but higher still is truthful living.	Guru Granth Sahib 62
The body is the field of karma in this age; whatever you plant, you shall harvest.	Guru Granth Sahib 78
The Gurmurkh acts in harmony with God's Will; the Gurmurkh finds perfection.	Guru Granth Sahib 1058
Recognise the Lord's Light within all, and do not consider social class or status; there are no classes or castes in the world hereafter.	Guru Granth Sahib 349
All human beings, high or low, and of any caste or colour may sit and eat in the Guru's kitchen-eating house [langar].	Rehat Maryada
Through selfless service, eternal peace is obtained.	Guru Granth Sahib 125
Keep the langar ever open.	Guru Gobind Singh
If the people use the wealth bestowed on them by God for themselves alone or for treasuring it, it is like a corpse. But if they decide to share it with others, it becomes sacred food.	Guru Nanak
A Sikh should not steal, form dubious associations or engage in gambling.	Rehat Maryada
Air, water, earth and sky – the Lord has made these His temple.	Guru Granth Sahib 723
The God-conscious being delights in doing good to others.	Guru Granth Sahib 273
Show kindness and mercy to all beings.	Guru Granth Sahib 508
Where there is forgiveness, there is God himself.	Guru Granth Sahib 1372
When all other methods fail it is proper to hold the sword in hand.	Guru Gobind Singh
The Beloved Himself enjoys every heart; He is contained within every woman and man.	Guru Granth Sahib 605
Recognise the whole human race as one.	Guru Gobind Singh

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