

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

One possible approach to delivering the Specification

This document provides suggestions and ideas about how you might deliver GCSE Religious Studies for this unit. You can use these suggestions, adapt them to better suit your students or use your own approach.

However you deliver GCSE Religious Studies, you can rely on AQA's comprehensive support package, online, on paper and in person, including resources, specimen exam questions, training meetings, continuing professional development (CPD), guidance and advice.

This *approach to delivering the Specification* is part of your invaluable **Teacher Resource Bank**, which includes further *approaches to delivering the Specification*, *additional specimen questions*, *Resources list*, *Guide to command words*, *Explanation of terms*, *Getting started*, *Summary of changes to content* and more.

If you have any enquiries about GCSE Religious Studies you can speak directly to the AQA Religious Studies team by e-mail religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk or telephone 0161 958 3821.



GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*Topic 1 *Beliefs and Sources of Authority – The Bible*

Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Bible – its contents	What is the Bible?	To examine the structure of the Bible and its contents.	Explain what Christians understand by the Bible. When was it written? Who was it written for?
		How to approach reading the different books in the Bible and understand what the author is trying to say.	Explain the type of writings in the Bible, eg myths, prayers, prophecies, historical books, pieces of advice, etc. Explain the importance of reading the books of the Bible in the way in which they are intended.
The Bible is divided into two main parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament.	What is a testament?	To examine the Old Testament and the New Testament.	Explain how the Old Testament deals with the way that God looked after the Jewish people throughout their history up to the coming of Jesus. The New Testament shows how Christians should live their lives.
1. The Old Testament	What types of books are in the Old Testament?	To examine the types of books in the Old Testament and their relevance to Christians.	Explain the types of books in the Old Testament: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the laws (Torah)the history booksthe wisdom booksthe prophets. Create an Old Testament bookshelf with the four headings and the books grouped under the headings.
2. The New Testament	Which books are accepted as part of the New Testament? Why these books?	To examine the types of books in the New Testament and their relevance to Christians.	Explain the types of books in the New Testament: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the Gospelsthe Acts of the Apostlesthe lettersthe Book of Revelation. Explain that the books contained in the New Testament were not the only writings among the early Christians. It took 350 years for these books to be accepted as an authentic record of Christian beliefs. Create New Testament bookshelf with the four headings and the books grouped under the headings
		To understand the criteria used to select particular books in the New Testament (or those rejected).	Explain the criteria used by which particular books were accepted into the New Testament (or rejected).

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 1 Beliefs and Sources of Authority – The Bible			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Bible: authority and inspiration	Why is it important for Christians to believe that the Bible was inspired by God and was not just a human book?	Examine what it means to say that the Bible is the word of God. To understand the relevance of the Bible for Christians. Evaluate the importance of the Bible as the only guide for Christians.	Explain how God speaks through the Bible to all people. Explain how God's hand at work can be seen through everyday events and throughout history. Explain how the books of the Bible help people to respond to God's work. Explain how the Bible teachings have stood the test of time.
The Bible: different interpretations	What is the significance of the Bible to Christians, in terms of its authority and how it is interpreted? Why do Christians interpret the Bible in different ways?	Examine how different understandings of the Bible as the word of God can affect how Christians receive the message and the way in which they lead their lives.	Explain the different interpretations of the Bible and how they affect the way Christians live their lives: Fundamentalism Literalism Liberal view. Look at a well known story, eg feeding of 5000, and apply different approaches with one group to each approach and then feedback to whole class.
	How do these interpretations affect the lives of Christians?	Examine how these interpretations affect the lives of Christians. Evaluate the best way to interpret the Bible.	Examine the role science plays in the beliefs about the Bible.

Topic 1 <i>Beliefs and Sources of Authority – The Apostles' Creed</i>			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Apostles' Creed	What is a creed? Why are creeds important to Christians? When was the first formal creed drawn up?	To understand the significance of creeds for Christians. To understand and evaluate the teachings of the Apostles' Creed.	Explain what the word 'creed' means. What is the Nicene Creed and when was it drawn up? Examine the teachings of the Apostles' Creed. Explain the oneness of God and the Trinity. Explain what Christians believe about God the Son.
	What does the 'the incarnation' mean?	To understand why, according to Christian beliefs, God became man in Jesus. To evaluate the need for belief in God-made-Man.	The Incarnation – the birth of God as a human being.
	What does the phrase 'he descended into hell' mean about Jesus' death? Why can Christians not give historical details about Jesus' Resurrection?	To evaluate what Jesus' death and resurrection show about the importance of human beings to God.	Know facts about the Crucifixion, Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus.
	How do the statements of beliefs at the end of the Apostles' Creed impact on the lives of Christians?	To examine the impact of these statements of belief on the lives of Christians.	Explain the Holy Spirit/the Holy Catholic Church/the Communion of Saints/the forgiveness of sins. The Resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Topic 1 <i>Beliefs and Sources of Authority – The teaching and authority of the Church</i>			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The teaching authority of the Church	What is the Church? What is the main difference between Orthodox and Catholic Christians? What was the Reformation? Why are Roman Catholics so called?	Examine the divisions within the Christian community. To examine what happened to the Church after the Reformation. To examine the different Christian denominations and how they arose.	Explain what the Church is. Explain the divisions within the Christian community. Explain the Church after the Reformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Church of England• Baptists• Methodists• The Salvation Army• The Society of Friends. Search the ReQuest website www.request.org.uk

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 1 Beliefs and Sources of Authority – The teaching and authority of the Church			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Magisterium	What is the Magisterium? Who forms the Magisterium? Why is the Holy Spirit important to Christians?	To understand the importance of a teaching authority in the Roman Catholic Church. To evaluate the need for one single authority.	Explain the meaning of the word 'The Magisterium'. Explain the role of the Magisterium. Examine Christian belief about the Holy Spirit.
The role of Peter and the Papacy	Who was Peter? What was Peter's confession of Christ? How did Peter die?	To examine the role of Peter in the early Church.	Know the story of Peter's confession of Christ – at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew's account). Explain the importance of the promises Jesus made to Peter after the Resurrection/his leadership of the Christian Church/the death of Peter.
The role of the Papacy	Why is it important for Roman Catholics that there is a direct line of succession from St Peter to the present Pope Benedict XVI?	To examine what the role of the Pope is in relation to the role of St Peter.	Explain the role of Peter as the first Bishop of Rome. Explain the role of the present Pope as the head of the Roman Catholic Church and spiritual guide/why the Vatican is important for Roman Catholics/explain how a Pope is chosen.
	What is meant by Papal infallibility? Do Roman Catholics need to pay attention to what the Pope says?	To understand the meaning of Papal infallibility. Evaluate the need for a single leader for the Church.	Explain what is meant by Papal infallibility. Explain the reasons for a single leader for the Church.
The teaching ministry of the Church	Why are the Bishops important for the Roman Catholic Church? What is a General Council?	To examine the combined role of the Pope and the bishops in passing on the faith. To understand the role of the General Council.	Explain the role of the Pope and of the bishops. Explain how the Pope and the bishops pass on the faith. Explain the role of the General Council.
	What is the impact of the Bible, the Creed and the Magisterium on the beliefs and lifestyles of Roman Catholics?	To examine how the Bible, the Creed and the Magisterium impact on the lifestyles of Roman Catholics.	Explain how the Bible, the Creed and the Magisterium are linked in the passing on of the Christian faith.

Topic 2 Sacraments of Initiation

Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Sacraments of Initiation	What is a Sacrament?	To examine what is meant by a Sacrament.	Definition of what a Sacrament is. Name the seven sacraments. Explain the central action of each of the seven sacraments.
	What does initiation mean?	To understand that, through the rites of initiation, the believer takes on new responsibilities within the Christian community.	Explain that, through the Sacraments of Initiation, a person becomes a fully committed member of the Roman Catholic Church.
The Sacraments as Rites of passage	What is meant by a rite of passage?	To evaluate the need for sacramental rites of passage.	Explain the four major rites of passage for Roman Catholics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth marked by baptism • maturity marked by confirmation • marriage rites • death rites. Know the two rites of passage which are also rites of initiation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism and Confirmation.

Topic 2 Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism

Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Sacrament of Baptism	When did baptism begin?	To examine the history of baptism.	Refer to the Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1 ^{9–11}) and the Commission (Matthew 28 ^{19–20}). Discuss baptism in the early Church and the ceremony of infant baptism used today.
The rite of Infant Baptism	How is baptism practised in the Roman Catholic Church.	To understand the rite of infant baptism in the Roman Catholic Church. To examine what baptism means for believers. To understand the importance of the signs and symbols of infant baptism. To examine the practice of infant baptism.	Explain the ceremony of Infant Baptism in the Roman Catholic Church. Explain the meaning and purpose of baptism. Explain the symbolism of baptism. Explain the practice of infant baptism. Create a leaflet produced by priest for parents who come to have their child baptised Carry out searches on the following web sites: ReQuest www.request.org.uk Tere website www.tere.org
	What differences should baptism make to the way people lead their lives?	To analyse the effects of baptism in a believer's life. To evaluate the purpose of infant baptism.	Explain the impact of baptism on a believer's life. Discuss arguments for infant baptism.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 2 <i>Sacraments of Initiation – Believers' Baptism</i>			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The rite of believers' baptism	Which traditions practise believers' baptism?	To examine what takes place in believers' baptism. The impact of believers' baptism in the life of a Christian. To evaluate the importance of believers' baptism.	Explain the ceremony of believers' baptism and its signs and symbols. Discuss the impact of believers' baptism on the believer. Arguments for believers' baptism. Search the ReQuest website www.request.org.uk
The Sacrament of Confirmation	What is meant by confirmation? What are the origins of confirmation?	To examine what is meant by 'confirmation'. To understand how confirmation emerged.	Explain the meaning of 'confirmation'. Explain what the following passages tell us about the Holy Spirit? (John 16 ¹³), (John 20 ^{21–22}), (Acts 2 ^{1–4}), (Acts 8 ^{14–17}). Explain confirmation in the early church.
	What happens in the Roman Catholic ceremony of confirmation? What signs and symbols are used in the sacrament of confirmation?	To examine the importance of each part of the Roman Catholic ceremony of confirmation. To evaluate the need for a ceremony of confirmation.	Explain what happens in the ceremony of confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church. Explain the signs and symbols used in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain the importance of Confirmation for Roman Catholics. Search the Tere website www.tere.org
	What is meant by the 'gifts of the Holy Spirit'?	To explain the relevance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.	Examine the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisdom• Understanding• Right Judgement• Courage• Knowledge• Reverence• Wonder and Awe.
	Can Christians live full lives without receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit?	To evaluate how much Christians need the gifts of the Holy Spirit.	Explain the effects of these gifts for a Christian. Examine different Christian practice of confirmation.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

Topic 3 *Places of Worship*

Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
<p>How do the interior and exterior features of places of worship relate to belief and practices?</p> <p>How do central features help Christians to express their faith?</p>	<p>To know how a Roman Catholic Church is structured.</p> <p>To show understanding of the features of different places of worship with particular reference to the Roman Catholic tradition.</p> <p>To evaluate the need for central features in Churches.</p>	<p>At end of section, in pairs choose a particular denomination and then design a church, explaining the features included. Visit one or more churches or carry out a virtual tour – see the AQA web site for links to a variety of places of worship www.aqa.org.uk</p> <p>Explain the function of the features of:</p> <p>A Catholic Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The altar • The stoup and the font • The tabernacle • The pulpit • The lectern • The sanctuary lamp • Statues • The Stations of the Cross • Stained glass windows • Our Lady's altar.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 3 <i>Places of Worship – Pilgrimage</i>			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Pilgrimage	What is pilgrimage?	To understand why Christians go on pilgrimage.	Examine what pilgrimage is and why Christians go on pilgrimage.
	How does a pilgrimage help a believer?	To appreciate how a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, etc might help a believer. To appreciate how a pilgrimage to notable Shrines might help a believer. To appreciate how a pilgrimage to a local Shrine might help a believer.	Examine the different types of places of pilgrimage. (a) Famous international sites, such as the Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes. (b) Shrines connected to notable saints and apparitions, such as Assisi (St Francis), Lisieux (St Therese), Walsingham (Norfolk), Knock (Ireland), often part of a journey but the visit to the shrine might only take two or three days. (c) Local shrines, such as St Winifride's Well (holywell), Lindisfarne and St Cuthbert's shrine in Durham Cathedral that are generally only visited for a few hours. Explain why some pilgrimage sites are more popular than others and why the Holy Land is a central pilgrimage site for most Christians. Candidates should be able to explain why at least one place of pilgrimage is important and what Christians do at that particular shrine. Look at websites of pilgrimage sites, eg Lourdes, Durham Cathedral. Create a travel brochure for one place of pilgrimage. Visit a place of pilgrimage.
	Can a pilgrimage change people's lives? Is there a need for pilgrimage?	Evaluate how a pilgrimage can change people's lives Evaluate the need for pilgrimage. To be able to assess the value of places of worship or pilgrimage.	Explain how pilgrimage can change people's lives. Examine the relevance of pilgrimage in the believer's life.

Topic 4 Worship

Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Worship	What is meant by worship?	To understand what is meant by 'worship'.	Explain what is meant by 'worship'. Explain what prayer is. Discuss the different types of prayer. Create Hand of prayer?
Private Worship	Why do some believers prefer private worship?	To understand the purpose of private worship.	Discuss reasons why some people prefer to be on their own when they pray.
Meditation	What is meditation?	To understand ways in which individual Christians worship in private.	Examine meditation as an approach to private prayer.
Aids to worship	What aids are used by Christians in their prayer life?	To appreciate how the individual aids to worship help Christians to pray.	Examples of aids to worship: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statues• Icons• Rosary.
	Why do Christians use aids to worship?	To evaluate the need for aids to worship.	Explain how and why Christians use aids to pray.

Topic 4 Worship – Public Worship

Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Public Worship	What is public worship? Why is public worship important for Christians? What are the different forms of public worship? What is liturgical worship? What is meant by non-liturgical/spontaneous worship?	To understand the meaning of public worship. To understand why Christians gather together to worship. To understand that there are different forms of public worship. To understand how the different forms of public worship helps believers.	Public Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass Carry out searches of the ReQuest and Tere websites: www.request.org.uk www.tere.org Liturgical Worship and Non-Liturgical Worship Explain Liturgical worship. Explain non-liturgical worship. Explain why some Christians prefer a structured form of worship and others prefer a non-structured and spontaneous form of worship.
	What does the Roman Catholic Church teach about public worship? What is the impact of public worship on the attitudes and lifestyle of Roman Catholics?	To know the importance given to public worship by the Roman Catholic. To evaluate the need for public worship.	Explain the importance of public worship for Roman Catholics. Explain why and how public and communal prayer can help a Roman Catholic to lead a more committed life.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 4 Worship – Public Worship			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The use of the Bible in Private and Public worship	How is the Bible used in private and public worship? How might the Bible inspire Christians in both private and public worship?	To appreciate the difference the Bible can make to people when they worship.	Examine how the Bible is used in private and public worship. Discuss the need for the Bible in worship.
Topic 4 Worship – The Lord's Prayer			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Our Father	What is the Our Father? Why is the Our Father important to Christians? What impact does the Our Father have on the individual and the community?	To understand the contents of the Our Father. To evaluate the importance of the Our Father. To understand how the Our Father can guide Christians in action and lifestyle.	Explain what the Our Father is. Examine the content of the Our Father. Discuss the impact of the Our Father on the individual and the community. Create a prayer based on one of the petitions in the Our Father. Find pictures to illustrate each of petitions.
The Role of Mary	What does the Roman Catholic Church teach about Mary? Why do Roman Catholic and the Orthodox churches worship Mary? How is Mary seen as a role model and guide for Roman Catholics?	To understand why Mary is so important in the Roman Catholic tradition. To evaluate the need for Mary. To understand the relevance of Mary's example for Christian living today.	Explain what the Roman Catholic Church teaches about Mary. Discuss the importance of Mary as the Mother of God. Discuss the importance of Mary as opposed to the importance of Jesus as God-made-Man. Explain the ways in which Mary's example might be followed by Christians in their everyday lives, especially in respect to prayer. Listen to musical settings of Hail Mary/Ave Maria.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 5 The Eucharist			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
The Eucharist	What are the different names for the Eucharist? What is the origin of the Eucharist?	To understand what each of these names are trying to show about the nature of the Eucharist. To know the origins of the Eucharist.	Explain the different names for the celebration of the Eucharist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion • Mass • The Lord's Supper • The Breaking of Bread • The Last Supper/Passover. Search the ReQuest and Tere websites for this topic: www.request.org.uk www.tere.org
Roman Catholic Ceremony	How does the Roman Catholic Church celebrate the Eucharist? What does the Roman Catholic Church teach about the Eucharist? What are the effects of the Eucharist for Roman Catholics?	To understand how important the different parts of the Eucharist are for the Roman Catholic Church. To understand the centrality of the Eucharist to Roman Catholic worship. To understand the importance of the Real Presence for Roman Catholics.	Explain how the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Eucharist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rite of the Mass • The Liturgy of the Word • The Liturgy of the Eucharist • The Consecration • Communion. Explain what the Roman Catholic Church teaches about the Eucharist. Explain the effects of the Eucharist for Roman Catholics. The Real Presence/Transubstantiation.
Orthodox Ceremony	What is the Orthodox understanding of the Eucharist? How does the Orthodox Church celebrate the Eucharist?	To understand the importance the Orthodox Church gives to the Eucharist To evaluate the need for the elaborate Orthodox ceremonies. To understand how their practice reflects their beliefs.	Explain the Orthodox practice of the Eucharist. Explain in what ways the Orthodox and Roman Catholic beliefs and practices about the Eucharist are the same and in what ways are they different.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

Topic 5 <i>The Eucharist</i>			
Topic outline	Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
Protestant Traditions	<p>Why is there such a variety of beliefs within Protestant traditions about the Eucharist?</p> <p>Why do some Christians not celebrate the Eucharist?</p> <p>What is the impact of receiving the Eucharist on the everyday life of a believer?</p> <p>Can the Eucharist be a sign of unity among the Christian Churches?</p>	<p>To understand the variety of beliefs in the Protestant traditions.</p> <p>To understand why some Christians do not celebrate the Eucharist.</p> <p>To evaluate the impact of receiving the Eucharist on the life of a believer.</p> <p>To evaluate whether the Eucharist can be a sign of unity among the Christian Church.</p>	<p>Explain how the following Protestant traditions celebrate the Eucharist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of England • The Methodist Church • The Baptist and the Free Churches • The Salvation Army and the Quakers. <p>Explain why some Christians do not celebrate a Eucharist.</p> <p>Explain the impact and importance of receiving the Eucharist for Christians.</p> <p>Examine the possibility of Church unity with regard to beliefs about the Eucharist.</p>

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 6 Festivals

Key questions	Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities
<p>What is the meaning of the term 'liturgical year'?</p> <p>What are the key events in the liturgical year?</p> <p>What is the meaning of these special days and festivals for Christians today?</p> <p>What is the relationship of these special days and festivals to events in the life of Jesus and the early Church?</p>	<p>To understand how the liturgical year helps Christians to become more deeply aware of the events of salvation history.</p> <p>To show an understanding of the key events in the liturgical year for Roman Catholics.</p> <p>To examine the impact of these special days and festivals on the faith and attitudes of believers.</p> <p>To understand the relationship of these special days and festivals to events in the life of Jesus.</p> <p>To understand the observances, customs and symbols connected with these special days and festivals.</p>	<p>Explain what the term 'liturgical year' means.</p> <p>Explain the key events in the liturgical year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent • Christmas and Epiphany • Lent, including Holy Week • Easter, including Pentecost • Ordinary Time. <p>Explain the significance and practice of these special days and festivals for Christians.</p> <p>Explain the relationship of these special days and festivals to events in the life of Jesus and the early Church.</p> <p>Create a diagram of the Church's Year?</p> <p>Search the ReQuest website for virtually all of this topic: www.request.org.uk</p>

Topic 6 Festivals

Key questions	Possible teaching activities
What are the observances, customs and symbols connected with the following special days and festivals?	
Advent	<p>Advent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent wreath • Advent Calendar. • Design one
Christmas and Epiphany	<p>Christmas and Epiphany:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midnight Mass • the Crib • exchanging gifts • decorations • cards • family meal on Christmas day • wise men. <p>Class debate on whether Christmas is too commercialised.</p>

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 Roman Catholicism

Topic 6 Festivals	
Key questions	Possible teaching activities
Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of ashes.
Lent	Lent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Fasting • Works of Mercy. Look at examples.
Holy Week/Palm Sunday	Holy Week including Palm Sunday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procession of Palms. Research Holy Week symbols.
Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the timing of the Mass of the Lord's Supper • the washing of the feet • the institution of the Eucharist • the procession to and watching at, the Altar of Repose.
Good Friday	Good Friday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the timing of the service • the reading of the Passion • the Adoration of the Cross • Communion • United Service of witness • Stations of the Cross. Each person to design one Station for display.
Easter	Easter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the timing of the vigil • the lighting of the fire • the lighting and procession of the Paschal Candle • the blessing of the baptismal water • the renewal of baptismal vows.
Ascension	Ascension – the ascent of Jesus into heaven for believers.
Pentecost	Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit.

GCSE Religious Studies Specification A Unit 3 *Roman Catholicism*

Notes: