

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Religious Studies 0490

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Worship, Beliefs, Scriptures and Sacred Places	1 h 45 min	80	Withheld: source inconsistency	Two questions for each of the two selected religions
2: Festivals, Fasts, Family Life and Social Action	1 h 45 min	80	Withheld: source inconsistency	Two questions for each of the same two religions

Read the weighting against your qualification route. Percentages have been withheld because the supplied source is inconsistent; both components remain required. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

Assessment consists of two written papers, each lasting one hour and forty-five minutes and carrying eighty marks.

Paper One covers worship, beliefs and scriptures, and sacred places. Paper Two covers festivals and fasts, family life and social action.

Each paper contains separate sections for Christianity, Islam and Judaism. You answer from the two religions you have studied. Within each chosen section, you answer two questions from a choice of three, giving four answers in total.

Every question is worth twenty marks and contains three parts. These move from factual knowledge and explanation towards a longer evaluative response in which you consider different viewpoints and reach a supported conclusion.

Across both papers, sixty per cent of the assessment focuses on knowledge and understanding, while forty per cent focuses on evaluation.

Successful candidates may receive grades from A-star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Select religious material that answers the question and explain its significance. Distinguish a statement of belief from an analysis of how it affects people's lives. Where comparison or evaluation is required, support the argument with relevant teachings and examples, while respecting diversity within traditions.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

The examination is offered in the November series, but the syllabus is not available in every administrative zone, so availability should be confirmed before registration. Private candidates may enter.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. Study two religions chosen from Christianity, Islam and Judaism and use the same two in both papers. The supplied 2028 source contains inconsistent component percentages, so no percentage allocation is asserted in this orientation.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.