

Assessment Objectives in GCSE RE

AO1 Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding.

AO2 Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate:
personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints.

AO1 and AO2 are interrelated and connections must be made.

Candidates will be expected to use their knowledge and understanding to support their responses to the issues for evaluation.

Guide to Command Words AO1 Knowledge (k) and Understanding (u)

Look at Examine closely; pay special attention to; look carefully at; interpret.
(This is used to direct a candidate's attention to the stimulus material.)
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**Describe** Give a detailed account of. The account should be factual, without any attempt to explain. (k)

**Describe briefly** Give a brief account of. This is used in 2 or 3 mark questions. (k)

**Give** Present briefly information requested. (k)

**How?** Give brief factual, descriptive or explanatory information. (k)

**In what ways?** This can test just knowledge, asking for examples of beliefs & practices. (k)

**Name** Requesting the candidate to show knowledge of specific information or technical terms.  
This command asks the candidates to state, specify or identify. (k)

**Outline** Give key points of. (k)

**Retell** Describe in your own words a story, e.g. a parable. (k)

**What?** Give factual information. (k)  
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Explain Interpret, analyse or give reasons for. (u)

Explain briefly Interpret, analyse or give reasons for. This is used in 2 or 3 mark questions. (u)

Explain, using an example Interpret, analyse or give reasons for. An example needs to be included in answer. (u)

Give reasons The question may test understanding of beliefs and/or practices. (u)

Look at Examine closely; pay special attention to; look carefully at; interpret.
(This is used to direct a candidate's attention to the stimulus material.)

What is meant by? The question is testing understanding of specialist terminology or of a symbol or concept. (u)

What is the importance of/for? This phrase is often asking for a comment on the way in which:
beliefs, symbols, words or customs relate to modern practice or lifestyle. (u)

Why? Give reasons for. (u)

Guide to Command Words AO2 (This is used to examine **evaluation**.)

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

No marks are given for just agreeing or disagreeing.

Candidates must evaluate as required, giving reasons for their evaluation.

Evaluation will involve making a judgement based on evidence, analysis and argument.

Showing that you have thought about more than one point of view.

Candidates are expected to show an understanding of the complexity of an issue and the reasons why not all people will agree.

They are not expected personally to hold two points of view at once.

Answers in which the candidate states,
“I agree because” and “I disagree because”

are sometimes not as well developed or argued as answers which use phrases such as
“while some believe, I think that..”

or

“I can see that some people think that, but..”

Refer to religious arguments, e.g. Christianity, in your answer.

Include religious facts, examples and quotes in your answer!

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

Explain your own views on an issue, supported by reference to religious teaching.