

Qualification Guide



NOCN General Religious Education

NOCN Entry Level Award in General Religious Education (Entry 3)

National Accreditation No: 500/5437/5

NOCN Level 1 Award in General Religious Education

National Accreditation No: 500/2168/0

NOCN Level 2 Award in General Religious Education

National Accreditation No: 500/2158/8

NOCN Level 3 Award in General Religious Education

National Accreditation No: 500/2159/X

Version 2.2 February 2009



The **Diversity** of Learning

NOCN Entry Level Award in General Religious Education (Entry 3)
NOCN Level 1 Award in General Religious Education
NOCN Level 2 Award in General Religious Education
NOCN Level 3 Award in General Religious Education



National Open College Network

The National Open College Network (NOCN) is the leading credit and unit based Awarding Body in the UK. NOCN provides a national framework of credit-based units and qualifications which are underpinned by a range of national and local services, including curriculum support and staff development.

NOCN, through its Open College Networks (OCNs), works with over 3,000 Centres across the UK to develop flexible and responsive credit based awards and qualifications that widen access to lifelong learning and address exclusion, participation and achievement. The structure of our qualifications provides opportunities for learners to achieve unit credits and use these to gain access to full qualifications and further learning.

Quality assurance, supported at the point of delivery, underpins all NOCN credit achievement and qualifications. OCNs approve Centres that can demonstrate the ability to meet national requirements for course delivery and quality assurance to support credit awards and qualifications. OCNs have wide-ranging experience in centre and programme approval and support Centres to ensure all awards are valid and valued.

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1. About the qualifications

The broad aim of these qualifications is to encourage learners to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in the study and practice of religion.

These qualifications enable learners to reflect theologically on their experience of life and the values of contemporary culture. It will also allow them to construct a framework of moral reasoning and relate this to one or more religious traditions or belief systems. They will provide learners with the skills that enable them to become agents of community cohesion. They are also suitable for individuals within a faith tradition to explore the role of that tradition within community life.

Each qualification comprises one unit of assessment:

NOCN Entry Level Award in General Religious Education (Entry 3)

Unit title: Introduction to General Religious Education

NOCN Level 1 Award in General Religious Education

Unit title: General Religious Education 1

NOCN Level 2 Award in General Religious Education

Unit title: General Religious Education 2

NOCN Level 3 Award in General Religious Education

Unit title: General Religious Education 3

Guided Learning Hours

The guided learning hours for each qualification is 30.

Key Skills

The unit within each qualification has been signposted to identify where opportunities exist for learners to achieve key skills. In designing activities for unit assessment centres will be able to use the mapping to identify which key skills could be addressed through evidence generated by learners. The degree of opportunity in any one unit will depend on centre-specific factors including learning context, teaching and learning strategies and resources.

How the Qualification Relates to Wider Education and Training Issues

Unit Title	General Religious Education
Social, Cultural & Ethical issues	Through case studies, examination of religious documents and an evaluation of people’s response to ethical issues learners will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and identify the practical demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
Health & Safety	Through practical examples learners will learn about their own rights and their responsibilities to protect the rights of others, especially vulnerable adults. This investment will help develop a generation committed to ensuring the health and safety of themselves and others.
Equal Opportunities	These qualifications are suitable for individuals from any faith tradition.
Environmental Issues	To enable each learner to make links between their personal faith and social responsibility. Through their journal, learners will have an opportunity to reflect both on ‘human ecology’ and ‘environmental ecology’ in light of the contemporary thinking that the manner in which we live economically and socially can impact on the environment.
European Awareness/Legislation	To introduce learners to the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity enshrined in and the European Charter of Human Rights. Through this study learners will come to appreciate the moral and religious antecedents of this legislation.

Relationship with national occupational standards / (or other relevant standards)

There are currently no NOS for religious education. The unit within each qualification at the relevant level has been signposted to key skills.

Language Requirements

The qualifications will be offered in English.

2. Who the qualifications are for

These qualifications are for all those individuals interested in religious and theological studies.

Restrictions on Learner Entry

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 14 years.

Recommended Prior Learning

There are no specific requirements for prior learning.

Progression Opportunities

The qualifications will ensure succession from prior learning and the formation of citizens committed to the building of the 'common good'. Learners will learn how to build just communities and be able to transfer or use such skills in the world of employment.

Learners with Particular Requirements

Assessment within the qualifications is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of learners.

If you have learners with particular requirements you should contact your OCN to discuss arrangements for reasonable adjustment.

3. Achieving the qualifications

The NOCN Entry Level, Level 1, 2 and 3 Awards in General Religious Education each contain one mandatory unit.

Each unit has a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and related assessment criteria:

- Learning outcomes set out what a learner is expected to know, understand or be able to do as result of a process of learning.
- Assessment criteria specify the standard a learner is expected to meet to demonstrate that a learning outcome or learning outcomes have been achieved.

Achievement of a qualification is determined by successful completion of the unit of assessment.

4. The qualifications units

NOCN Entry Level Award in General Religious Education (Entry 3)

NOCN Unit Code	QCA Accredited Number	Unit Title	Mandatory or Optional	10 Hour Credit Value	Level	OPUS ID
DD1/E3/QQ/001	H/501/9384	Introduction to General Religious Education	Mandatory	3	Entry 3	CAC654

NOCN Level 1 Award in General Religious Education

NOCN Unit Code	QCA Accredited Number	Unit Title	Mandatory or Optional	10 Hour Credit Value	Level	OPUS ID
DD1/1/QQ/001	R/500/9837	General Religious Education 1	Mandatory	3	1	BZT010

NOCN Level 2 Award in General Religious Education

NOCN Unit Code	QCA Accredited Number	Unit Title	Mandatory or Optional	10 Hour Credit Value	Level	OPUS ID
DD1/2/QQ/001	Y/500/9838	General Religious Education 2	Mandatory	3	2	BZT018

NOCN Level 3 Award in General Religious Education

NOCN Unit Code	QCA Accredited Number	Unit Title	Mandatory or Optional	10 Hour Credit Value	Level	OPUS ID
DD1/3/QQ/001	D/500/9839	General Religious Education 3	Mandatory	3	3	BZT023

The assessment activities for each unit are indicated in the respective Assessment Information tables.

An explanation of the kind of activity, assessment and evidence expected at the appropriate levels is contained within the Assessment Definitions document.

Unit Title: Introduction to General Religious Education
Level: Entry 3
Credit Value: 3
GLH: 30
NOCN Unit Code: DD1/E3/QQ/001
QCA Unit Reference Code: H/501/9384

This unit has 7 learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know about religion and spirituality.	1.1. State their own religious/spiritual feelings, and state what they believe about faith and why.
2. Know the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.	2.1. Identify some key religious activities in daily life, distinguishing these from secular activities.
3. Have an awareness of questions of life.	3.1. Identify some questions that are difficult to answer.
4. Know how to engage in religious practice.	4.1. Identify some key elements of practice within a particular religious faith.
5. Have an awareness of different faith traditions within contemporary society.	5.1. Retell a religious story from each of two main faith traditions.
6. Have an awareness of the relationship between religious belief and lived experience.	6.1. State one example where religious belief influences choice of action in daily life.
7. Know the difference between right and wrong.	7.1. In response to a familiar moral story state whether the characters behaved in a good way.

Unit Title: Introduction to General Religious Education
Level: Entry 3
Credit Value: 3
GLH: 30
NOCN Unit Code: DD1/E3/QQ/001
QCA Unit Reference Code: H/501/9384

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Guidance:

This grid gives details of the assessment activities to be used with the unit attached. Please contact your OCN for definitions of each activity and the expectations for assessment practice and evidence for verification.

The assessment activities for this unit are indicated in the table below:

Key: P = Prescribed – this assessment method *must* be used to assess the unit.

O = Optional – this assessment method *could* be used to assess the unit.

Case study	O	Project	O
Written question & answer/test/exam		Role play/simulation	
Essay		Practical demonstration	
Report		Group discussion	O
Oral question and answer	O	Performance/exhibition	O
Written description		Production of artefact	
Reflective log / diary	O	Practice file	

Signposting Key Skills

This unit offers clear opportunities for learners to provide evidence of achievement in Key Skills achievement in the following skill area/s:

Key Skill		Wider Key Skill	
Communication		Working with others	
Information Technology		Problem solving	
Application of Number		Improving Own Learning and Performance	

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Unit Title: Introduction to general Religious Education
Level: Entry 3
Credit Value: 3
GLH: 30
NOCN Unit Code: DD1/E3/QQ/001
QCA Unit Reference Code: H/501/9384
Accredited Start date: 01/09/2008
Accredited End date: 31/07/2011
Unit Sector/Subject area: 10.4
Unit Grading System: PASS
Availability for Use: NA

Purpose and Aim of the Unit	The unit aims to introduce learners to religious literacy and to start the process of identifying their religious beliefs. Learners will be encouraged to think about the values operating within school/college, work placement and their communities and to start to develop their skills in moral reasoning which they can then apply to their everyday lives.
Restrictions on the Availability	N/A
Additional Assessment Requirements	N/A
Details of relationship between the Unit and the NOS	There are currently no NOS for this area
Details of relationship between the Unit and Standards (not NOS)	N/A
Endorsement of the Unit by	N/A

UNIT TITLE: General Religious Education 1

LEVEL: One
CREDIT VALUE: 3
NOCN UNIT CODE: DD1/1/QQ/001
ACCREDITED UNIT NO: R/500/9837

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Guidance:

This grid gives details of the assessment activities to be used with the unit attached. Please contact your OCN for definitions of each activity and the expectations for assessment practice and evidence for verification.

The assessment activities for this unit are indicated in the table below:

Key: P = Prescribed – this assessment method *must* be used to assess the unit.

O = Optional – this assessment method *could* be used to assess the unit.

Case study	O	Project	O
Written question & answer/test/exam	O	Role play/simulation	O
Essay	O	Practical demonstration	O
Report	O	Group discussion	O
Oral question and answer	O	Performance/exhibition	O
Written description	O	Production of artefact	O
Reflective log / diary	O	Practice file	O

Signposting Key Skills

This unit offers clear opportunities for learners to provide evidence of achievement in Key Skills achievement in the following skill area/s:

Key Skill		Wider Key Skill	
Communication	✓	Working with others	✓
Information Technology	✓	Problem solving	✓
Application of Number		Improving Own Learning and Performance	✓

UNIT TITLE: General Religious Education 2

LEVEL: Two
CREDIT VALUE: 3
NOCN UNIT CODE: DD1/2/QQ/001
ACCREDITED UNIT NO: Y/500/9838

This unit has 8 learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Develop an understanding of spirituality, theology and ethics.	1.1. Discuss the nature of spirituality, theology and ethics and how they link and manifest in society today. 1.2. Explain a current affairs issue by using spiritual and ethical principles.
2. Understand the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.	2.1. Describe how a religious commitment is demonstrated in everyday life. 2.2. Evaluate some of the demands of religious commitment.
3. Reflect on questions of life.	3.1. Compare how the meaning of life and death are explained in at least two religious traditions. 3.2. Discuss how this relates to their own understanding.
4. Understand methods of engaging in religious practice.	4.1. Describe key elements of practice within religious faith.
5. Understand different faith traditions within contemporary society.	5.1. Describe elements of three faith traditions commonly observed in contemporary society.
6. Develop their own faith position.	6.1. Explain their individual position with regards to two key issues within religious debate.
7. Understand the relationship between religious belief, personal faith and lived experience.	7.1. Describe a relationship between religious belief, personal faith and lived experience in a specific context.
8. Develop skills to be able to respond to opportunities and responsibilities of life experiences.	8.1. Describe their use of theological and ethical thinking as a response to their own personal experience.

UNIT TITLE: General Religious Education 2

LEVEL: Two
CREDIT VALUE: 3
NOCN UNIT CODE: DD1/2/QQ/001
ACCREDITED UNIT NO: Y/500/9838

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Guidance:

This grid gives details of the assessment activities to be used with the unit attached. Please refer to your OCN for definitions of each activity and the expectations for assessment practice and evidence for verification.

The assessment activities for this unit are indicated in the table below:

Key: P = Prescribed – this assessment method *must* be used to assess the unit.
O = Optional – this assessment method *could* be used to assess the unit.

Case study	O	Project	O
Written question & answer/test/exam	O	Role play/simulation	O
Essay	O	Practical demonstration	O
Report	O	Group discussion	O
Oral question and answer	O	Performance/exhibition	O
Written description	O	Production of artefact	O
Reflective log / diary	P	Practice file	O

Signposting Key Skills

This unit offers clear opportunities for learners to provide evidence of achievement in Key Skills achievement in the following skill area/s:

Key Skill		Wider Key Skill	
Communication	✓	Working with others	✓
Information Technology	✓	Problem solving	✓
Application of Number		Improving Own Learning and Performance	✓

UNIT TITLE: General Religious Education 3

LEVEL: Three
CREDIT VALUE: 3
NOCN UNIT CODE: DD1/3/QQ/001
ACCREDITED UNIT NO: D/500/9839

This unit has 8 learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Develop an understanding of spirituality, theology and ethics.	1.1. Compare and contrast the nature of spirituality, theology and ethics in how they manifest in society today. 1.2. Critically discuss a current affairs issue by using spiritual and ethical principles.
2. Understand the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.	2.1. Critically discuss the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
3. Reflect on questions of life.	3.1. Evaluate how the meaning of life and death are explained in at least two religious traditions. 3.2. Relate their own beliefs regarding some questions of life to one religious tradition.
4. Understand methods of engaging in religious practice.	4.1. Demonstrate key elements of practice within religious faith.
5. Understand different faith traditions within contemporary society.	5.1. Compare and contrast elements of three faith traditions commonly observed in contemporary society.
6. Develop their own faith position.	6.1. Justify their individual position with regards to a key issue within religious debate.
7. Understand the relationship between religious belief, personal faith and lived experience.	7.1. Critically discuss relationship and tensions between religious belief, personal faith and lived experience in a specific context.
8. Use theological and ethical thinking skills to be able to respond to opportunities and responsibilities of life experiences.	8.1. Apply theological and ethical thinking skills to develop and evaluate a plan to respond to some likely life experiences in the near future.

UNIT TITLE: General Religious Education 3

LEVEL: Three
CREDIT VALUE: 3
NOCN UNIT CODE: DD1/3/QQ/001
ACCREDITED UNIT NO: D/500/9839

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Guidance:

This grid gives details of the assessment activities to be used with the unit attached. Please refer to your OCN for definitions of each activity and the expectations for assessment practice and evidence for verification.

The assessment activities for this unit are indicated in the table below:

Key: P = Prescribed – this assessment method *must* be used to assess the unit.
O = Optional – this assessment method *could* be used to assess the unit.

Case study	O	Project	
Written question & answer/test/exam		Role play/simulation	O
Essay		Practical demonstration	
Report		Group discussion	O
Oral question and answer	O	Performance/exhibition	
Written description	P	Production of artefact	
Reflective log / diary	O	Practice file	O

Signposting Key Skills

This unit offers clear opportunities for learners to provide evidence of achievement in Key Skills achievement in the following skill area/s:

Key Skill		Wider Key Skill	
Communication	✓	Working with others	✓
Information Technology	✓	Problem solving	✓
Application of Number		Improving Own Learning and Performance	✓

5. How the qualifications are assessed

Unit Assessment

Achievement of units is through internally set, internally assessed, internally verified and externally verified assessment activities. Centres devise assessment activities to meet the specification for assessment detailed for each unit. If an assessment method is prescribed, it must be used to assess the unit.

Centre devised assessments will be scrutinised by the Internal Verifier and NOCN Quality Reviewer against the unit specification and NOCN Assessment Definitions grid to ensure reliability and validity of assessment. Centres may be required to provide samples for regional and national standardisation activity.

Marking Tasks

Each task must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved. Where a series of tasks is set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all tasks in order to achieve the unit credit. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

Assessment Summary

To achieve the qualification the learner must achieve all the assessment components for the units. No compensation across units is allowed.

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6. Offering the qualifications

Centres wishing to offer these qualifications should in the first instance contact their OCN office for information and support. A list of all OCN offices and contacts can be found on the NOCN website www.nocn.org.uk.

Your OCN will advise you on the best and most efficient methods for offering these qualifications to learners. All procedures for the use of these qualifications, including approval, registration of learners, verification and certification will be completed through your OCN. If you have any queries or difficulties at any time you should contact your OCN office.

7. How the qualifications are quality assured

General Information

All Centres wishing to deliver the qualifications need to demonstrate the ability to manage and deliver the qualifications, including adherence to quality assurance and assessment requirements.

Your OCN will provide guidance and give support in enabling you to deliver the qualification.

NOCN's standard quality assurance arrangements and requirements will apply and include the following:

- Internal verification
- External verification
- Regional and national standardisation

Standardisation

NOCN will undertake a process of standardisation periodically. Units from the qualifications will be selected for standardisation and OCNs will collect assessment materials from Centres. OCNs will notify Centres of the required sample and materials for standardisation purposes. You may be asked, and must contribute assessment materials for standardisation. Feedback on standardisation will be available to Centres through their OCN. National standardisation will establish:

- Statements on the standards for each unit
- Recommendations, advice and guidance for use of the qualification and assessment of units.

NOCN Entry Level Award in General Religious Education (Entry 3)

Accreditation start date: 1st September 2008

Accreditation end date: 31st July 2011

Certification end date: 31st July 2012

NOCN Level 1 Award in General Religious Education

Accreditation start date: 1st September 2007

Accreditation end date: 31st July 2010

Certification end date: 31st July 2011

NOCN Level 2 Award in General Religious Education

Accreditation start date: 1st September 2007

Accreditation end date: 31st July 2010

Certification end date: 31st July 2012

NOCN Level 3 Award in General Religious Education

Accreditation start date: 1st September 2007

Accreditation end date: 31st July 2010

Certification end date: 31st July 2013

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