

**SACRE 22 November, 2010**

**Children & Young People's Directorate**

**Blackfriars  
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**Religious Studies Examination results in 2010**

**SUMMARY**

There are several strengths in the 2010 examination outcomes to celebrate:

- an increased number of entries for the GCSE full course;
- a continued rise in the percentage of high grades gained at GCSE full course;
- an increased number of entries for A-Level;
- a 100% pass rate at A-level in the school sixth form that offered A-level.

One school entered candidates for a Humanities GCSE. All other schools entered candidates for an accredited religious studies examination.

In the short course GCSE examination the percentages of candidates gaining A\*-C grades are lower than the national average for this examination and lower than the percentages gaining A\*-C grades in the full course GCSE examination locally. The range of grades candidates gained is wide with some candidates gaining the top grades of A\* and A. It may be that most schools enter higher attaining candidates for the full course. A minority of schools enter all candidates for one course.

**ENTRY PATTERNS**

At Key Stage 4, the 13 LA maintained schools entered 1270 candidates for an accredited examination (618 Boys, 652 Girls). This number represented 65% of the cohort in LA maintained schools, a decrease from the proportion in 2009 which was 1291 (639 Boys, 652 Girls) representing 67.4% of the cohort. Several schools had a different pattern of entry from 2009. One high school has not entered candidates for a GCSE Religious Studies examination for several years; it enters students for Humanities GCSE.

**Full course GCSE**

550 students (226 Boys, 324 Girls), 28.1% of all students at the end of KS4 in Herefordshire maintained schools in 2010, entered for the full GCSE, an increase from the 387 students, 20.1% of all students (166 Boys, 221 Girls) in 2009. As in recent years, The Hereford Academy entered a small number of candidates (3 boys, 6 girls)

Ten LA high schools and The Hereford Academy entered candidates for the full GCSE examination. Two schools entered candidates for the full GCSE examination in 2010 who had not entered any candidates in the last 2 years, one entered 66 and the other 29. One school entered 124 candidates in 2010, significantly more candidates than in 2009 when they entered 22.

In nine of the LA schools and in the Hereford Academy high percentages of candidates gaining A\*-C grades (five schools over 90%, three over 80%) and some small entries might suggest that mostly high attaining students opted to study for the full GCSE. One school had comparatively

lower results with a wider spread of grades and appeared to have entered all students for the full GCSE examination.

### **Short course GCSE**

655 students (348 Boys, 307 Girls), 33.5% of the county's end of KS4 cohort in LA maintained schools, took the Short Course. This was a decrease from 2009 when 897 students (466 Boys, 431 Girls) 43.6% of the cohort took the examination.

Eleven LA high schools entered candidates for the short course GCSE in 2010. Two schools entered candidates for the short course and none for the full course GCSE examination. The remaining nine schools entered candidates for both GCSE examinations. However three schools only entered one candidate that might suggest that the course was not a taught option.

The percentages of candidates gaining higher grades were almost always lower in the schools that entered some candidates for the full course GCSE examination. However, eight schools had candidates who gained A\* and A grades. The numbers entered and the range of results compared to results in the full course GCSE examination might suggest that some schools entered students from across the ability range who had not opted for a full GCSE course or lower attainers for the short course GCSE examination.

The two schools that entered candidates only for the short course GCSE examination both had higher percentages of candidates gaining A\*-C grades than the national average.

In four schools that entered candidates for full and for short course GCSE examinations the percentages of candidates gaining grades A\*-C were higher than the national average.

The percentages of candidates gaining A\*-C grades in the short course GCSE examination are lower than the national average and lower than the percentages gaining A\*-C grades in the full course GCSE examination. The range of grades candidates gained is wide with some candidates gaining the top grades of A\* and A. from A\* to that appears to mirror the and Results are Entry numbers suggest that overall

### **Entry Level Qualifications**

Two schools entered candidates for a pre GCSE examination. One school entered a very small number in addition to a big entry for the full course GCSE that might suggest the candidates have learning difficulties. One school entered candidates for the first time and entered the same number for the short course. Pass rates were high. (100% and 96.5%).

### **GCE A-Level and Advanced Supplementary Level Religious Studies / Theology**

In 2010 one school sixth form and Hereford Sixth Form College entered students for A-level and/or AS level examinations. 84 students (31 Boys, 53 Girls) took A level in 2010, which is 14 more than in 2009 when there were 70 ( 25 Boys, 45 Girls))

The numbers taking AS level decreased from 43 (23 Boys, 20 Girls) in 2009 to 27 (14 Boys, 13 Girls) in 2010.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

Results for the 2010 GCSE and GCE A Level examinations for Religious Studies (subject to final validation) are summarised in Appendix A together with comparative data from 2009.

### Key Stage 4 GCSE Religious Studies

In the 2010 full GCSE examination 83.8% of students entered gained A\* - C passes (Boys = 75.7%, Girls = 89.5%) which was above the national average of 71.9% and above the 2009 results of 76.5% (Boys= 66.9%, Girls=83.7%).

In the 2010 short course GCSE examination 47.8% of students gained A\* - C passes (Boys = 38.5%, Girls = 58.3%) which is below the national average of 52.9% and below the 2009 results of 55.2% (Boys = 50.4%, Girls = 60.3%).

### Key Stage 4 entry level (pre GCSE) accreditation

In 2010 two schools entered candidates for an entry level qualification. 65 students (44 Boys, 21 Girls) took Entry Level Qualifications in 2010. In 2009 7 (7 Boys, 0 Girls) students sat an entry level examination. The rise in number is due to one school entering 57 candidates for the first time.

### A-level 2010

John Kyrle High School had a 100% pass rate in 2010 with 75% of the candidates gaining grades A\* -C in Religious Studies. In Hereford Sixth Form College 90% of candidates gained A\*-C in Theology.

### AS-level 2010

John Kyrle High School had a 100% pass rate in 2010 with 56% of the candidates gaining grades A\* -C in Religious Studies. In Hereford Sixth Form College 69% of candidates gained A\*-C in Theology.

## APPENDIX A

An overview of results showing 3 year trends is provided.

Vicky Ward, School Improvement Service

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Date: 2/11/2010

## Appendix A

### GCSE 2010 Results for Religious Studies

#### Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>98.9%</b>
Boys	226	171	75.7%	221	97.8%
Girls	324	290	89.5%	323	99.7%

#### Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
Boys	348	134	38.5%	330	94.8%
Girls	307	179	58.3%	301	98.0%

#### Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C				
	Entered	No. Grds 1-3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>47.7%</b>
Boys	44	42	11.4%	50.0%	34.1%
Girls	21	21	19.0%	4.8%	76.2%

### GCE A' Level 2009

#### Religious Studies

	A Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>66.7%</b>
Boys	3	1	33.3%	3	100.0%
Girls	15	8	53.3%	9	60.0%

#### AS Level

	AS Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Boys	5	2	40.0%	5	100.0%
Girls	4	3	75.0%	4	100.0%

#### Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

##### A2 Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	66	71.0%	90.0%

##### AS Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	18	47.0%	69.0%

### GCSE 2009 Results for Religious Studies

#### Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>99.7%</b>
Boys	166	111	66.9%	165	99.4%
Girls	221	185	83.7%	221	100.0%

#### Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>98.8%</b>
Boys	466	235	50.4%	460	98.7%
Girls	431	260	60.3%	426	98.8%

#### Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C				
	Entered	No. Grds 1-3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
Boys	7	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%
Girls	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### GCE A' Level 2009

#### Religious Studies

	A Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Boys	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%
Girls	9	7	77.8%	9	100.0%

#### AS Level

	AS Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Boys	1	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Girls	6	4	66.7%	6	100.0%

#### Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

##### A2 Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	58	82.8%	100.0%

##### AS Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	36	50.0%	69.4%

## Local Authority Maintained Schools only

