OCN
northern ireland

Qualification Specification for:

➢ **OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies**
  Qualification No: 603/0342/6

➢ **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies**
  Qualification No: 603/0341/4

Qualification Regulation Information

Qualification Title:	OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies
Qualification No:	603/0342/6

Operational start date:	1 September 2016
Operational end date:	30 June 2030
Certification end date:	30 June 2032

Qualification Title:	OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies
Qualification No:	603/0341/4

Operational start date:	1 September 2016
Operational end date:	30 June 2030
Certification end date:	30 June 2032

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification. Learners have up to 2 years after this date to complete the qualification and claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (**http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/**). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

OCN NI Contact Details

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Foreword

This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualifications:

- → **OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies**
- → **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualification
- The structure and content of the qualification
- Unit details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualification
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at **www.ocnni.org.uk**

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

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About Regulation

OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1st October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

Qualification Level

The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

Qualification Size

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

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Qualification Summary

The OCN NI Level 2 Award and Certificate in Religious Studies are designed for learners who wish to develop knowledge and understanding in religious studies in order to recognise religious choices people make based around faith practices within different religions in today's society. It is intended that learners will develop empathy, respect and awareness of other religious beliefs and cultural diversity as they are applied in everyday life situations.

These qualifications provide learners from different religions with opportunities to examine their own faith practices and those of others in the context of the units provided.

By continuous assessment through building a portfolio, learners will be more motivated and engaged to successfully complete the qualification.

Grading

Grading for these qualifications is pass/fail.

Sector Subject Area

10.4   Theology and Religious Studies

Qualification Target Group

These qualifications are targeted at learners who are interested in exploring issues such as personal identity, faith, life and death, marriage and divorce.

Progression

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies qualification enables progression to the Level 2 Certificate and from the Level 2 Certificate learners can progress to further Religious Study qualifications and/or further learning in this area or into employment.

Entitlement Framework

The Department of Education sets out the minimum number and range of courses a school should offer at Key Stage 4 and Post-16. The Entitlement Framework (EF) is the Post-14 curriculum which puts the needs of pupils first. It aims to provide access for pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum to enable them to reach their full potential no matter which school they attend or where they live.

The Entitlement Framework is designed to ensure equity and access to educational opportunities for all learners and enables schools to offer a broad and balanced,

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economically relevant curriculum to meet the needs and aspirations of all pupils. It will guarantee that all pupils have access to a minimum number of courses at Key Stage 4 and Post-16, of which at least one third must be general and one third applied.

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-Being has been approved by the Department of Education and added to the NIEFQAN file.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for these qualifications however learners should be at least 14 years old on completion of the qualification and receive appropriate advice and guidance on the suitability of the qualification.

Qualification Support

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

Delivery Languages

These qualifications are available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer these qualifications in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

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Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval
New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver these qualifications prior to the commencement of delivery.

Centre Staffing
Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role*:
- Centre contact
- Programme co-ordinator
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for any evidence they have assessed.

Centres must ensure that staff delivering, assessing and internally verifying qualifications are both qualified to teach in Northern Ireland and competent to do so.

Tutors
Tutors delivering the qualification should be occupationally competent, qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience.

Assessors
The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

Assessors must:
- be occupationally competent in the subject area and qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification
- have a minimum of one year's relevant experience
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities

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Internal Verification

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.

The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualification.

Internal Verifiers must:
- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training if not already completed

Internal verifiers are required to:
- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

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Structure and Content

The table below summarises the structure of these qualifications.

In order to achieve the Level 2 Award learners must complete a minimum of 8 credits. The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is 80 hours. The minimum Guided Learner Hours (GLH) is 64.

In order to achieve the Level 2 Certificate learners must complete all units for a total of 15 credits. The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is 150 hours. The minimum Guided Learning Hours (GLH) is 120.

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	TQT	Credit Value	Level
L/615/0223	CBD658	Addiction	10	1	Two
R/615/0224	CBD659	Charity and Religious Charities	10	1	Two
Y/615/0225	CBD660	Exploring Personal Identity and Faith	20	2	Two
D/615/0226	CBD661	Exploring Religious Traditions within Own Community	20	2	Two
H/615/0227	CBD662	Life and Death Issues	20	2	Two
K/615/0228	CBD663	Life of a Famous Person of Faith	20	2	Two
M/615/0229	CBD664	Marriage and Divorce	20	2	Two
H/615/0230	CBD665	Prejudice and Reconciliation	20	2	Two
K/615/0231	CBD666	World Faith	10	1	Two

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Unit Details

Title	Addiction
Level	Two
Credit Value	1
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	8
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD658
Unit Reference No	L/615/0223

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore the issues relating to addiction and available help/support for individuals.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the different forms of addiction.	1.1. Identify a range of addictions and how these may impact on individuals and society.
2. Understand how religious teachings may give guidance on issues relating to addiction.	2.1. Describe how religious teachings may give guidance on issues relating to addiction.
3. Know how to access sources of help/support relating to addiction.	3.1. Summarise a range of help/support services available to individuals and how they may be accessed.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary

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Title	Charity and Religious Charities
Level	Two
Credit Value	1
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	8
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD659
Unit Reference No	R/615/0224

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to gain an understanding of charity work and organisations.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the meaning of charity.	1.1. Describe what is meant by charity. 1.2. Summarise religious teaching on charity and how this may influence religious believer's behaviour.
2. Understand the purpose of a religious charity.	2.1. Illustrate the aims and objectives of a chosen religious charity. 2.2. Summarise the work undertaken by chosen charity and evaluate its success.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Title	Exploring Personal Identity and Faith
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD660
Unit Reference No	Y/615/0225

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore their own personal identity and how this relates to their personal beliefs.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the relationship of personal identity and faith.	1.1. Summarise what is meant by personal identity. 1.2. Illustrate the factors that shape the personal identity of a person of faith. 1.3. Illustrate how gender equality impacts on personal identity within a faith-based organisation. 1.4. Describe potential challenges between a person's beliefs and their personal/working environment.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
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Title	Exploring Religious Traditions within Own Community
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD661
Unit Reference No	D/615/0226

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore religious traditions within own community.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be aware of the main religious traditions within own community.	1.1. Describe the main religious traditions within own community. 1.2. Illustrate how own faith tradition evolved over time. 1.3. Identify areas of religious belief common to differing faith traditions.
2. Understand what is meant by interdenominational unity.	2.1. Describe what is meant by interdenominational unity. 2.2. Identify a range of groups who promote interdenominational unity and evaluate the success of each.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Title	Life and Death Issues
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD662
Unit Reference No	H/615/0227

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore issues that reflect the moral and religious debate over issues such as abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be aware of religious teachings on life and death issues.	1.1. Describe religious teachings that may give guidance on matters of life and death.
2. Be aware of a life and death issue within today's society.	2.1. Assess the various viewpoints and legal positions on one of the following: a) Abortion b) Euthanasia c) Capital punishment 2.2. Compare the arguments for / against two of the above that a person of no religious belief may hold.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
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Title	Life of a Famous Person of Faith
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD663
Unit Reference No	K/615/0228

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore the life and religious teachings of a chosen person of faith.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Explore the life of a person who is famous because of their religious beliefs.	1.1. Illustrate the life of a person who is famous because of their religious beliefs, to include: a) why they are famous b) religious teachings that they live/lived out c) how they influenced/helped other people d) why others may disagree with their beliefs e) challenges faced and how they overcame them f) impact of chosen person on modern day society

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
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Title	Marriage and Divorce
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD664
Unit Reference No	M/615/0229

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to gain an understanding of the religious teachings that may give guidance on marriage and divorce.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be aware of religious teachings that give guidance on issues relating to marriage and divorce.	1.1. Outline the religious teachings that give guidance on issues relating to marriage and divorce.
2. Be aware of a range views on marriage/partnerships and divorce.	2.1. Outline the reasons why people may not want to get married and hold the view that marriage is outdated. 2.2. Outline the legal requirements to obtain a divorce in the UK. 2.3. Describe the religious views on a range of marriages/ partnerships within today's society.
3. Be aware of support available to people facing marital difficulties.	3.1. Outline the range of support services available to people facing marital difficulties.

Assessment Guidance		

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Title	Prejudice and Reconciliation
Level	Two
Credit Value	2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD665
Unit Reference No	H/615/0230

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to explore the issues of prejudice and reconciliation within faith traditions.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the meaning of the term prejudice.	1.1. Define what is meant by the term prejudice. 1.2. Describe ways in which prejudice may manifest itself.
2. Be aware of religious teachings that may give guidance on issues relating to prejudice.	2.1. Illustrate religious teachings that may give guidance on issues relating to prejudice. 2.2. Describe a religious conflict and its impact.
3. Be aware of a range of methods used to address reconciliation within faith traditions.	3.1. Summarise a range of methods used to address reconciliation within faith traditions.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Title	World Faith
Level	Two
Credit Value	1
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	8
OCN NI Unit Code	CBD666
Unit Reference No	K/615/0231

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit will enable the learner to gain an understanding of world faiths and the background to a range of religious festivals.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be aware of different faith traditions within contemporary society.	1.1. Illustrate the characteristics of a range of faith traditions practiced in contemporary society to include: a) Beliefs b) Practices c) Festivals 1.2. Describe how a range of faith traditions may become associated with conflict.

Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
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Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualification and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualification.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of this qualification. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the External Verification report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and the application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

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Administration

Registration
A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

Certification
Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

Charges
OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

Equality, Fairness and Inclusion
OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

Retention of Evidence
OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.

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Operational end date: 30 June 2030
Certification end date: 30 June 2032

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Qualification Number: 603/0341/4

Operational start date: 01 September 2016
Operational end date: 30 June 2030
Certification end date: 30 June 2032

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