



VCE Religion and Society

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and two hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the Study Score.

Content

The *VCE Religion and Society Study Design 2011–2015* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes of Units 3 and 4 of the *VCE Religion and Society Study Design 2011–2015* will be examined. All key knowledge and key skills underpinning the outcomes are examinable.

Format

The examination will consist of three sections.

Section A: Short answer questions. Total 20 marks

Section B: Questions with multiple parts – including short and extended response questions. Total 40 marks

Section C: Essay questions. Total 20 marks

All questions in Sections A and B will be compulsory.

In Section C students will choose **one** out of 3 or 4 essay questions.

Students will no longer have the option to respond in a report format for Section C. Students will respond in essay format.

The following criteria will be used to assess the essay.

- Relevance to the question and, where provided, stimulus material
- Knowledge of one or more religious traditions
- Use of terminology to show a developed understanding of concepts relevant to the study
- Presentation of a coherent structure that develops a relevant argument or point of view
- Incorporation of evidence and/or examples to support an argument or point of view

Total marks allocated for the examination will be 80.

The examination paper may include questions which refer to stimulus materials and/or images such as newspaper articles, pictures or cartoons.

The examination will be in a question and answer book.

Advice

During the 2011–2015 accreditation period for Religion and Society, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of key knowledge and key skills. The questions in the sample paper are examples and types of examination questions which will be found in all sections of the Religion and Society examination paper.

The VCAA does not publish answers for sample questions in this study.

The following documents should be referred to in relation to the VCE Religion and Society examination.

- *VCE Religion and Society Study Design and Advice to Teachers 2011–2015*
- *VCE Religion and Society Assessment Handbook*.

Sample questions

SECTION A

Question 1

How does a basic belief about ultimate reality within a religious tradition you have studied relates to a belief about the meaning of human life?

4 marks

Question 2

What makes a belief distinctive for a religious tradition?

3 marks

Question 3

What value do religious beliefs have for dealing with significant life experiences?

3 marks

Question 4

Why would a religious tradition be challenged by the wider society in which it exists?

3 marks

Question 5

Which of the eight aspects of religion would most likely be challenged by the wider society and why?

4 marks

SECTION B

Question 1

- a. Explain one internal and one external type of challenge faced by religious traditions over time. 4 marks
- b. Explain one way religious traditions respond to challenges from inside their tradition. 2 marks
- c. i. Outline the responses of a religious tradition you have studied to a particular historical challenge. 6 marks
- ii. Evaluate the impact of one of these responses on the religious tradition's relationship with other religious communities. 3 marks

Question 2



- a. What is the cartoon suggesting about the purpose of human existence (represented by the cartoon character)? 3 marks
- b. To what extent does this viewpoint agree with the way a religious tradition you have studied sees the purpose of human existence? 3 marks
- c. The understanding of the purpose of human existence leads to a vision for human society.
- i. Describe this vision for a religious tradition you have studied. 4 marks
- ii. Demonstrate how this vision is evident in the response of that tradition to a contemporary social and/or moral issue. 5 marks

Question 3

- a. Outline the beliefs relating to ultimate reality held by a religious tradition you have studied. 3 marks
- b. Explain what these beliefs mean to that religious tradition for the relationship between ultimate reality and humanity. 3 marks
- c. What are the implications of the relationship for the way an adherent/member of this religious tradition should lead their life? 4 marks
- d. How does this belief about ultimate reality have an impact on this religious tradition's beliefs about the meaning of death? 5 marks

SECTION C

Question 1

‘The reformulation and reinterpretation of religious belief suggests a complete change to the religious belief.’
To what extent is this statement true of how a religious tradition you have studied has responded to factors that have threatened the continuity of a particular religious belief.

20 marks

OR

Question 2

‘A significant life experience may inspire an adherent(s) of a religious tradition towards greater religious commitment. The opposite, however, may be equally true.’

Discuss this statement and show how this applies to an adherent(s) of a religious tradition you have studied.

20 marks

OR

Question 3



In relation to a religious tradition you have studied, discuss how this cartoon is an accurate reflection of the religious tradition's response to addressing a contemporary challenge.

20 marks