

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

STUDIES OF RELIGION (REL315116)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The format of the external assessment is a **3-hour written examination**.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

- Criterion 1: use ideas and concepts in discussing religious traditions and ethical perspectives
- Criterion 2: structure and communicate ideas and information
- Criterion 3: analyse religious and non-religious traditions and ethical perspectives
- Criterion 4: use evidence to support own interpretations and religious and ethical arguments of others
- Criterion 5: analyse the expression of religious and ethical viewpoints in society

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The following specifications for each section are outlined in **Table** below:

- the distribution across the sections of:
 - criteria
 - time allocations
- the number and type of items.

Section	A	B	C
Criterion/Criteria	C1: Elements 1, 2 and 3 C2: Elements 1, 2, and 5 C3: Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4 C5: Elements 1 and 2	C1: Elements 1, 2 and 3 C2: Elements 1, 2, and 5 C3: Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4 C4: all elements	C1: Elements 1, 2 and 3 C2: Elements 1, 2, and 5 C4: all elements C5: Elements 3 and 4
Course Coverage	Study One – Religious Traditions and Beliefs	Study Two – Significant Challenge and Change – Historical and Contemporary	Study Three – Ethics and Morality
Number and nature of items	2 Candidates will be provided with two stimulus items – one per question (either written or pictorial, with at least one written each year). Questions in this section will carry equal weighting. Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section.	2 Candidates will be provided with two questions. One will be historical in focus and one will be contemporary in focus. Questions in this section will carry equal weighting. Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section	2 Candidates will be provided with two questions. Questions in this section will carry equal weighting. Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section.
Compulsory or optional	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Item type(s) / format	Essay response format	Essay response format	Essay response format

Response time	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes
Mark / rating allocation (weighting must be specified)	All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z	All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z	All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z

SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY CANDIDATES

No materials or equipment required.

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A

- Assesses all examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on each criterion
- Includes a representative sample of course content from Study One
- Contains 2 questions – Candidates will respond to ONE question
- Requires an essay style format response (approximately 60 minutes of writing)

SECTION B

- Assesses all examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on each criterion
- Includes a representative sample of course content from Study Two
- Contains 2 questions – Candidates will respond to ONE question
- Requires an essay style format response (approximately 60 minutes of writing)

SECTION C

- Assesses all examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 4 and 5
- Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on each criterion
- Includes a representative sample of course content from Study Three
- Contains 2 questions – Candidates will respond to ONE question
- Requires an essay style format response (approximately 60 minutes of writing)