The purpose of the External Assessment Specifications is to provide information about the external assessment.

The criteria to be externally assessed are: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

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

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion/Criteria</td>
<td>C1 – examinable standard elements 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>C1 – examinable standard elements 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>C1 – examinable standard elements 1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C2 – examinable standard elements 1, 2, and 5</td>
<td>C2 – examinable standard elements 1, 2, and 5</td>
<td>C2 – examinable standard elements 1, 2, and 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C3 – examinable standard elements 1, 2, 3 and 4</td>
<td>C3 – examinable standard elements 1, 2, 3 and 4</td>
<td>C4 – all examinable standard elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C5 – examinable standard elements 1 and 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Coverage</td>
<td>Study One – Religious Traditions and Beliefs</td>
<td>Study Two – Significant Challenge and Change – Historical and Contemporary</td>
<td>Study Three – Ethics and Morality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Questions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candidates will be provided with two stimulus items – one per question (either written or pictorial, with at least one written each year).</td>
<td>Candidates will be provided with two questions. One will be historical in focus and one will be contemporary in focus.</td>
<td>Candidates will be provided with two questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questions in this section will carry equal weighting.</td>
<td>Questions in this section will carry equal weighting.</td>
<td>Questions in this section will carry equal weighting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section.</td>
<td>Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section.</td>
<td>Candidates will respond to ONE question in this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory/optional [questions/parts of questions]</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question type(s)</td>
<td>Essay response format</td>
<td>Essay response format</td>
<td>Essay response format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggested time allocation</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating allocation</td>
<td>All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B, ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z</td>
<td>All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B, ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z</td>
<td>All Criteria – ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B, ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRITERIA being externally assessed:

The following aspects of the criteria and their standards described in the course document are externally assessed.

- **Criterion 1**: use ideas and concepts in discussing religious traditions and ethical perspectives
  Elements 1, 2 and 3 of Criterion 1 standards are examinable.

- **Criterion 2**: structure and communicate ideas and information
  Elements 1, 2 and 5 of Criterion 2 standards are examinable.

- **Criterion 3**: analyse religious and non-religious traditions and ethical perspectives
  Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Criterion 3 standards are examinable.

- **Criterion 4**: use evidence to support own interpretations and religious and ethical arguments of others
  All elements of Criterion 4 standards are examinable.

- **Criterion 5**: analyse the expression of religious and ethical viewpoints in society
  Elements 1 and 2 Criterion 5 standards are examinable - Section A
  Elements 3 and 4 Criterion 5 standards are examinable - Section C

The external assessment includes 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)