

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

CODE DV2F 10

COURSE

SUMMARY

This is a free-standing Unit.

In this Unit candidates develop an understanding of the nature of spirituality and the influence of spirituality on the lives of religious believers. Candidates begin by exploring an understanding of spirituality from one religious perspective. They then focus on specific aspects of spirituality and how these are expressed in one religious tradition. Candidates also learn to express reasoned opinions.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of spirituality.
- 2 Explore specific aspects of spirituality.
- 3 Express a reasoned opinion about the importance of specific aspects of spirituality to religious believers.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre and there are no formal entry requirements.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 1 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: DD

Publication date: January 2006

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2006

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each Unit specification is £2.50. (A handling charge of £1.95 will apply to all orders for priced items.)

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of any Core Skill in this Unit.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of spirituality.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify practices that are regarded as spiritual in one religious tradition.
- (b) Describe experiences related to these practices that help to define them as spiritual.

Evidence Requirements

One written/oral recorded restricted response covering one practice which is regarded as spiritual in one religious tradition. The evidence should be produced in response to a question and under closed-book, supervised conditions.

OUTCOME 2

Explore specific aspects of spirituality.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe important aspects of spirituality which may be expressed and developed through spiritual practices and experiences.
- (b) Describe the way in which these aspects of spirituality are understood in the context of one religious tradition.
- (c) Describe the way in which these aspects of spirituality influence the actions of followers of this tradition.

OUTCOME 3

Express a reasoned opinion about the importance of specific aspects of spirituality.

Performance Criteria

- (a) State personal opinions about the importance, for believers, of specific aspects of spirituality.
- (b) Give at least two reasons in support of these opinions.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

Evidence Requirements for Outcomes 2 and 3

Two written/oral recorded restricted responses (one for each of Outcomes 2 and 3) covering **one** specific aspect of spirituality. Each piece of evidence should be produced in response to a question and under closed-book, supervised conditions.

The specific aspects of spirituality are:

- ◆ the believer's relationship with God/perception of reality*
- ◆ the believer's understanding of 'self'
- ◆ the believer's relationship with other people

*If Buddhism is studied, the believer's relationship with God is not relevant.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This is a free-standing Unit.

In relation to Outcome 1 candidates are expected to identify spiritual practices which are found in one religious tradition. The religious tradition chosen is at the discretion of the centre.

Candidates will develop their understanding of the nature of spirituality through an examination of these spiritual practices and related experiences. Typically, believers claim that they become aware of a power or force which is perceived variously as mysterious, powerful or strangely attractive but daunting. These experiences can also be described as profoundly influential because they can impel people to look at life beyond the routine and surface level of everyday existence.

Examples of practices which help believers express and develop their spirituality would be:

- ◆ collective worship
- ◆ pilgrimage
- ◆ personal prayer
- ◆ practices associated with repentance

Examples of experiences related to these practices which help to define them as spiritual would be:

- ◆ a sense of a supernatural power which stands over and above the self
- ◆ a sense of conviction that life has meaning and purpose beyond that which is immediately obvious
- ◆ a sense of awe and wonder
- ◆ a sense of being part of a much greater whole
- ◆ a sense of deep devotion and humility
- ◆ a sense that one's perspective on reality has altered in some profound way
- ◆ a sense of deepened awareness or understanding

It is important for candidates to understand that spiritual practices and related experiences help believers to both express and develop important aspects of spirituality. In relation to Outcomes 2 and 3, candidates therefore explore important aspects of spirituality from the perspective of one of the chosen religious traditions.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

The relevant aspects of spirituality are:

- ◆ the believer's relationship with God/perception of reality*
- ◆ the believer's understanding of the Self
- ◆ the believer's relationship with other people

* If Buddhism is studied, the believer's relationship with God is not relevant.

Although these aspects of spirituality may be common to many religious traditions, they are understood in different ways. This is because of the beliefs which make each religious tradition distinctive. For example:

- ◆ in Hinduism, belief in the Atman as part of Brahma affects how believers understand the Self
- ◆ in Christianity, the belief in Jesus as Son of God affects how believers understand their relationship with God
- ◆ in Buddhism, the concept of Anicca affects how believers relate to the world around them

It is therefore important for candidates to be able to describe the specific understanding of the aspects of spirituality from the perspective of their chosen tradition.

It is also important for candidates to realise that a believer's understanding of these different aspects of spirituality can influence their actions. Examples of this might be:

- ◆ in Native American traditions, belief in the Great Spirit affects the way in which individuals treat natural resources
- ◆ in Islam, the belief that all people are created equal in the eyes of God affects the individuals relationship with other people
- ◆ in Christianity, understanding of all people as 'neighbour' can lead to radical social action

In Outcome 3 candidates are required to express and support an opinion on the importance of one specific aspect of spirituality in one religious tradition. In order to support their opinion, candidates should be encouraged to draw on materials, visits, speakers and other experiences they have had during their study of the Unit.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

In this Unit candidates develop their understanding of the nature of spirituality. This involves not only learning about concepts related to spirituality, but also exploring these concepts with emphasis placed on practical learning approaches. Some centres may provide opportunities for such approaches in the context of Religious Observance as well as in core Religious and Moral Education classes. This could also include visits to places of worship, retreat centres and/or visits from guest speakers from various religious traditions.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Spirituality in a Religious Context (Intermediate 1)

Candidates must express a clear and justified opinion about the importance of an aspect of spirituality in the context of a particular religious tradition. It is important that candidates learn to express informed opinions based on the knowledge and experience they have acquired. Candidates should therefore be encouraged to reflect on and refer to religious writings, teachings and, where relevant, discussions with members of the relevant religious tradition.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Wherever possible, assessment should be used judiciously and efficiently to provide evidence of the achievement of all the Outcomes in the Unit. The evidence can be gathered during and/or at the end of the Unit and must be completed under controlled conditions, ie under supervision without collaboration and the assistance of teacher/lecturer advice. The evidence should be composed of questions relating to each of the Outcomes with equal weighting being given to each Outcome.

The marking scheme should reflect the standard embodied in the Performance Criteria. This will allow the evidence to be considered as a whole. The level of attainment required for successful completion of the Unit is the satisfactory attainment of all the Performance Criteria.

CANDIDATES WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

This Unit Specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (SQA, 2004).