



Advanced Higher  
Course Assessment  
Specification



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# Advanced Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Course Assessment Specification (C764 77)

**Valid from August 2015**

This edition: April 2015, version 1.1

Revised: April 2016, version 1.2

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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## Course outline

<b>Course title:</b>	Advanced Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
<b>SCQF level:</b>	7 (32 SCQF credit points)
<b>Course code:</b>	C764 77
<b>Course assessment code:</b>	X764 77

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

### Course assessment structure

Component 1 — question paper	60 marks
Component 2 — project: dissertation	40 marks
<b>Total marks</b>	<b>100 marks</b>

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

### Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html).

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course/Unit Support Notes*.

# Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the candidate must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

## Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of:

- ◆ Drawing on, extending and applying the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired during the Course. This will be assessed by a question paper and a project.
- ◆ Demonstrating depth of knowledge and understanding and application of skills in the question paper. This will sample knowledge and understanding from the mandatory content of the Course and will require the application of skills.
- ◆ Demonstrating challenge and application through independent research related to an appropriate religious, moral or philosophical or issue, in the project.

## Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A candidate's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

**Grade description for C**

For the award of Grade C, candidates will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, candidates will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

**Grade description for A**

For the award of Grade A, candidates will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, candidates will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

**Credit**

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a Grade D or better is achieved.

## Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and a project: dissertation

### Component 1 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to demonstrate depth of knowledge and understanding and application of skills.

This question paper will give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ in-depth knowledge and understanding of complex issues arising from philosophy of religion
- ◆ in-depth knowledge and understanding of complex issues arising from religious experience
- ◆ in-depth knowledge and understanding of complex issues arising from medical ethics
- ◆ analysing and evaluating arguments and evidence

The question paper will be marked out of 60. The question paper has two Sections:

- ◆ Section 1: Philosophy of Religion
- ◆ Section 2
  - Part A Religious Experience
  - Part B Medical Ethics

All candidates should complete Section 1 and either Part A or Part B from Section 2.

**Section 1: Philosophy of Religion** will have 30 marks.

This Section will be made up of two extended response questions from which candidates will choose to answer one.

Candidates should then complete either Part A or Part B of Section 2.

**Section 2 Part A: Religious Experience** will have 30 marks.

This Part will be made up of two extended response questions from which candidates will choose to answer one.

**Section 2 Part B: Medical Ethics** will have 30 marks.

This Part will be made up of two extended response questions from which candidates will choose to answer one.

### **Optional questions**

In both Sections, candidates will choose one question to answer from a choice of two.

### **Sampling**

The question paper will sample from the full range of content outlined in the further mandatory information on Course coverage. **The full range of the mandatory content of the Course will be assessed over a number of years.**

No pattern will be set for the rotation of mandatory content, meaning that the same content may be assessed in subsequent years. Candidates will be awarded marks for relevant knowledge and understanding that they use in answering the question. This may vary depending on the focus of learning and teaching in different centres.

### **Component 2 — project–dissertation**

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate challenge and application by demonstrating skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a project on a religious, moral or philosophical issue.

The project–dissertation will give candidates an opportunity to undertake independent research in order to demonstrate the following skills:

- ◆ demonstrating the use of a wide range of sources in the presentation of the dissertation
- ◆ demonstrating in-depth factual knowledge of an issue
- ◆ drawing information together coherently
- ◆ analysing arguments and evidence with reference to sources
- ◆ evaluating arguments and evidence with reference to sources
- ◆ presenting supported and coherent conclusions on the issue

The project–dissertation will have 40 marks.

## **Setting, conducting and marking of assessment**

### **Question paper**

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Candidates will complete this in 2 hours.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA

### **Controlled assessment — project–dissertation**

The project–dissertation will be managed by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under some supervision and control. Evidence for assessment will be produced independently by the candidate in time to meet a submission date set by SQA.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

## **Further mandatory information on Course coverage**

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Advanced Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Course. Question papers will sample this mandatory knowledge and understanding and assess skills.

### **Section A: Philosophy of Religion**

Within this section, candidates will develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of:

- ◆ arguments surrounding the existence of God
- ◆ the philosophical principles behind the arguments
- ◆ responses to the arguments

Candidates should also be able to:

- ◆ analyse arguments surrounding the existence of God
- ◆ analyse the philosophical principles behind the arguments
- ◆ analyse responses to the arguments
- ◆ evaluate the quality of the arguments and responses

### **Cosmological argument and responses**

- ◆ Aquinas: argument from motion, contingency, causation
- ◆ Leibniz: principle of sufficient reason
- ◆ Kalam argument
- ◆ philosophical responses
- ◆ scientific responses
- ◆ religious responses

### **Teleological argument and responses**

- ◆ Aquinas: argument from design
- ◆ Paley: argument from design
- ◆ argument from intelligent design
- ◆ philosophical responses
- ◆ scientific responses
- ◆ religious responses

### **Atheism**

- ◆ the improbability of God
- ◆ incoherence of the God of classical theism
- ◆ presumption of atheism
- ◆ philosophical responses
- ◆ scientific responses
- ◆ religious responses

## **Section 2: Medical Ethics**

Within this section, candidates will develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of:

- ◆ issues surrounding medical ethics
- ◆ religious and non-religious responses to the issues

Candidates should also be able to:

- ◆ analyse religious and non-religious arguments surrounding issues in medical ethics
- ◆ evaluate the quality of the arguments and responses

### **Beginning of life**

- ◆ personhood
- ◆ treatment and use of embryos
- ◆ abortion
- ◆ sanctity of life
- ◆ religious responses
- ◆ non-religious responses

### **Organ transplants**

- ◆ organ procurement
- ◆ organ allocation
- ◆ sanctity of life
- ◆ religious responses
- ◆ non-religious responses

### **End of life**

- ◆ forms of end-of-life care: medical and social care
- ◆ forms of euthanasia
- ◆ forms of assisted suicide
- ◆ sanctity of life
- ◆ religious responses
- ◆ non-religious responses

## **Section 3: Religious Experience**

Within this section, candidates will develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of:

- ◆ the nature of religious experience
- ◆ religious and non-religious responses to religious experience

Candidates should also be able to:

- ◆ analyse religious and non-religious responses to religious experience
- ◆ evaluate the quality of the arguments and responses

### **Understandings of religious experience**

- ◆ James' ideas about religious experience
- ◆ Otto's ideas about religious experience
- ◆ Tillich's ideas about religious experience
- ◆ Swinburne's ideas about religious experience

**Faith perspectives**

- ◆ mystical experiences
- ◆ conversion experiences
- ◆ miracles
- ◆ sensory experiences
- ◆ personal relationship
- ◆ meditative experiences

**Alternative accounts of religious experience**

- ◆ psychological accounts of religious experience
- ◆ scientific accounts of religious experience
- ◆ sociological accounts of religious experience

# Administrative information

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**Published:** April 2016 (version 1.2)

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## History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	<p>Structure and coverage of Course assessment section — Component 1 list of skills, knowledge and understanding updated to reflect Marking Instructions.</p> <p>Information on Question Paper structure, command words, scaffolding, optional questions and sampling updated and added for clarity.</p> <p>Component 2 — list of skills updated to reflect Marking Instructions.</p> <p>Further mandatory information on Course coverage section —amendments to introductory paragraphs in each Section, to improve clarity. Removal of 'ancient and modern arguments' from the bullet points of mandatory content for Philosophy of Religion. Within Religious Experience, personal religious conversion' changed to 'individual conversion'.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015
	1.2	<p>Changes made across the three Unit sections to clarify content and provide a practical flow for delivery.</p> <p>Removal of requirement to have two questions in the question paper on the same sub-topic and two questions drawn from the three topics in each Unit.</p>	Qualifications Manager	April 2016

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Assessment Specification.