



External Assessment Report 2015

Subject	RMPS
Level	Advanced Higher

The statistics used in this report have been compiled before the completion of any Post Results Services.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers, lecturers and assessors in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published assessment and marking instructions for the examination.

Section 1: Comments on the Assessment

Component 1: Question paper

Candidates answer questions from two of three sections. All candidates answer one question on the Philosophy of Religion, worth 30 marks, and one question on the optional topic, either Religious Experience or Medical Ethics, both also worth 30 marks.

Component 2: Dissertation

The dissertation title is taken from a prescribed list and is worth 40 marks and should be around 4,000 words in length.

The external assessment is worth a total of 100 marks.

Section 2: Comments on candidate performance

Component 1: Question paper

Most candidates performed very well. Markers commented on the quality of responses and on the fact that few candidates were not of Advanced Higher quality. This provided evidence to support the view that centres had made accurate judgements on appropriate presentation levels from their centre. There was a feeling from markers that this year's cohort was significantly better than previous years.

Component 2: Dissertation

Most candidates performed well and, as usual, thanks to a well written assignment a number of candidates managed to achieve their Advanced Higher.

Section 3: Areas in which candidates performed well

Component 1: Question paper

Candidates are now excelling at presenting information and arguments and have a sound grasp of the idea that more is required than simply a descriptive piece of work. The use of sources is improving all the time and there are many examples this year of well-judged sources.

Component 2: Dissertation

Very few dissertations were inappropriate or of a poor standard. Teachers and candidates are to be congratulated on the continuing improvement in this area.

Section 4: Areas in which candidates found demanding

There were no areas which candidates found notably demanding.

Section 5: Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates

This was the final year for this Course. It is therefore imperative that if centres wish to present candidates for the new Advanced Higher RMPS course in future years, that they familiarise themselves with all appropriate SQA guidance documentation to enable them to support their candidates effectively.

Statistical information: update on Courses

Number of resulted entries in 2014	220
Number of resulted entries in 2015	228

Statistical information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of Course awards including grade boundaries

Distribution of Course awards	%	Cum. %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
Maximum Mark - 100				
A	45.6%	45.6%	104	70
B	25.3%	68.9%	53	60
C	22.4%	91.2%	51	50
D	4.4%	95.6%	10	45
No award	4.4%	-	10	-

The Course assessment functioned as intended, therefore no adjustment to grade boundaries was required.