

Update to National 5 and Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Courses



We have updated the Course Assessment Specifications for National 5 and Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies. This follows feedback gathered from centres during session 2014–15.

The updated Course Assessment Specifications are now available on SQA's website and are dated 'August 2015'.

Please refer to the following 'Notification of Changes' tables for your curricular area, as these provide a summary of the changes to each document and include details of the revised version numbers.

- [Religious and Moral Education National 3 to National 5 Notification of Changes Log](#)
- [Religious and Moral Education Higher Notification of Changes Log](#)

Notification of Changes tables for all subjects are available from www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges

Further information on the reasons for these changes, and guidance on the next steps to take, is provided below.

Subject	Document	Reason for change	Next steps for centres
National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	Course Assessment Specification	<p>Amendments were made within the Course Assessment Specification relating to the Assignment in order to provide further clarification. Changes included replacing the word 'topic' with 'issue' so as candidates are not disadvantaged by selecting a question due to its closed nature. Issues have to include a religious, moral and philosophical viewpoint, not just religious, in line with the Course content.</p> <p>'Contemporary' was also removed, in relation to the nature of the issue, as this is not appropriate to all issues.</p> <p>In the World Religion section, 'followers and wider society' has been replaced with 'people's lives', in line with Unit Specification and to strengthen the link between internal and external assessment. Clarification has also been provided in</p>	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised document.

		<p>terms of the use of sources.</p> <p>In the Morality and Belief section, application of the moral stances has been removed. Candidates will study religious and non-religious viewpoints, including utilitarianism and religious authority.</p> <p>In the Religious and Philosophical Questions section, 'Origins of Life' has been amended to 'Origins' to provide clarity that all questions are not in relation to evolution.</p>	
<p>Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies</p>	<p>Course Assessment Specification</p>	<p>The question paper has been amended so that sections 1 and 2 will comprise two 10-mark questions each, one on evaluation and one on analysis. Section 3 will be one 20-mark question. This will ensure clarity in the future layout of the question paper.</p> <p>Amendments were made to the assignment in order to provide further clarification. Changes included replacing the word 'question' with 'issue' so as candidates are not disadvantaged by selecting a question due to its closed nature. Issues have to include a religious, moral and philosophical viewpoint, not just religious, in line with the Course content. 'Contemporary' was also removed, in relation to the nature of the issue, as this is not appropriate to all issues.</p> <p>In the Morality and Belief section, application of the moral stances has been removed. Candidates will study religious and non-religious viewpoints, including utilitarianism and religious authority.</p> <p>In the Religious and Philosophical Questions section, 'Origins of Life' has been amended to 'Origins' to provide clarity that all questions are not in relation to evolution.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised document.</p>