

Religious, Moral And Philosophical Studies — Intermediate 2

Notes of Guidance for Teachers/Lecturers on the Extended Essay

The Extended Essay at Intermediate 2 will be planned and conducted under supervision, written up under controlled conditions (with a two hour time allocation) and externally assessed. It will be approximately 1,000-1,200 words in length. Teachers/lecturers must ensure candidates choose an issue from within the Units that they have studied in the RMPS course. **Candidates will be penalised if the issue is not from within the Units of the RMPS course.** Appended to these notes are exemplars which conform to the requirements set out in the course, to assist teachers/lecturers in advising candidates as to the general nature of appropriate issues.

With each candidate's response the teacher/lecturer responsible must include a completed Flyleaf. A separate Flyleaf for the plan must also be submitted. On this the Core Skills checklist must be completed and signed. The completed checklist gains the candidate an automatic award of the Planning and Organising component at Problem Solving at this level.

1 Introduction: The Extended Essay

The Extended Essay component of the Intermediate 2 course in RMPS is intended to develop the skills of working with complex sources and the exercise of the skills required in structuring a sustained presentation of conclusions.

2 The External Assessment of the Extended Essay

A total of 25 marks will be available for the Extended Essay. A Plan, of no more than 200 words, must be submitted along with the completed Extended Essay, but the mark allocation will be based solely on the quality of the Essay. Candidates will however be penalised if they exceed the 200 word limit for the Plan. The allocation of marks to each aspect of the Essay is given below, along with an indication of the features involved.

i Identification and retrieval of information **(7 marks)**

appropriateness and clarity of stated aim

identification of a variety of primary and secondary sources

a varied selection of relevant information from sources

ii Analysis and evaluation **(11 marks)**

reasonable analysis, interpretation and evaluation of information

attention paid to context and/or authorship of information researched

awareness of differing viewpoints between sources

iii *Orderly presentation of essay* (7 marks)

clarity in development of essay

overall structure and progression

quality of conclusions

appropriateness of conclusion in relation to aims of essay

3 *Assessment and the Corresponding Qualities Required*

The following notes indicate the qualities required in candidates' Extended Essays in order to attain marks at various points in the range available. It should be noted, however, that an Essay falling into a particular marks category may not necessarily meet every aspect of the description given for that category.

An Excellent Extended Essay

In this category an Extended Essay has an appropriate and clearly stated aim which is valid in terms of the syllabus. It has been thoroughly researched and a range of relevant information from both primary and secondary sources has been identified. The material researched has been well understood and a number of aspects of the area of study have been evaluated and analysed. The overall structure and progression of the Essay is excellent, a valid conclusion has been given and in all respects the work is first class.

A Good Extended Essay

In this category an Extended Essay has an appropriate and clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus. It has been well researched and a range of relevant information from primary and secondary sources has been identified. However, analysis of the information is incomplete and, although a valid conclusion is presented, evaluation of some aspects of the study may be lacking. The overall structure and progression of the Extended Essay is of a good standard, a valid conclusion has been given and in general it is a commendable piece of work.

A Satisfactory Extended Essay

In this category an Extended Essay has a clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus. It has been reasonably well researched, with evidence of both primary and secondary sources being consulted but the material gathered, although relevant, may be presented in a descriptive manner indicating that it has not been fully interpreted and analysed. A conclusion to the Essay is presented but evaluation of certain aspects of the area of study may lack depth and contain weaknesses in research and/or analysis.

A Poor Extended Essay

In this category an Extended Essay lacks a clearly stated aim relevant to the syllabus, has been inadequately researched and show significant gaps in the retrieval of information. It is weak on analytical skills and gives little evidence of evaluation. The overall structure and progression is poor and the conclusions are weak.

Extended Essay Exemplar Issues

The following is a set of exemplar issues which would be appropriate for study in accordance with the RMPS course. **It is emphasised that these are examples only, provided as guidance to teachers/lecturers in the task of advising candidates on their proposed issues.** Examples are selected in such a way as to reflect the possibilities for this aspect of the RMPS course. Some of the following exemplar issues are similar to Higher and Intermediate 1 for the benefit of multi-level teaching.

World Relations

- i 'The role of Muhammad as prophet and exemplar to Muslims.' How far is he seen in that capacity today?
- ii How far is it true to say that 'the story of Judaism is the story of Torah'?
- iii How significant is the Christian concept of Resurrection in the modern world?
- iv How far was Siddharta Guatama a product of his religious and cultural background?

The Nature of Belief/Metaphysics

- i Is there a huge difference between scientific and religious beliefs about the origins of the universe?
- ii How far can we trust the evidence from our senses in our attempt to understand this world?
- iii 'Religion is the opium of the people.' Do you agree with Marx?

Making Moral Decisions/Justice in the World

- i How far does Genesis 1 affect humanity's relationship with the earth?
- ii Do women have a place in the Ministry of the Christian Church?

Candidates must submit their Plan, which must not exceed 200 words, on the Pro forma provided. They may present their Plan in what they consider the most appropriate manner, eg in note form or in a spider diagram format. **Candidates must not submit a 'mini essay' in place of a Plan** and it should be noted that marks are likely to be deducted from their Extended Essay if the Plan exceeds the stated length of 200 words.

The declaration at the end of the Pro forma must be read and signed by the teacher/lecturer responsible.