



Common questions about National 3, National 4 and National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Will sources be prescribed?

No, SQA will not be providing sources.

By not prescribing sources you are free to choose what works best for your learners and the religious context you are teaching. This enables you to look at modern examples, eg recent statements by key figures like the Dalai Lama or the Chief Rabbi, as long as the source has authority within the religion.

Sources do not need to be scriptural or even texts, for example in Hinduism, an image of a god could be a good source of teaching about Nature of Brahman.

Are learners expected to remember lots of different sources?

Learners do not need to learn the sources as such. It is more important that they can analyse them in order to identify the key things they teach followers about the prescribed areas of content, which are outlined in the *Course Specification* and *Course Assessment Specification*.

Although learners need to be able to explain how a source might inform any prescribed belief or practice, it is certainly possible that one source could cover more than one aspect of the content, for example the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats could inform Christian belief about the Kingdom of God *and* Judgement; Krishna's teaching in the Gita could cover Dharma, Karma and Samsara. This kind of approach helps them to see the connections between religious concepts too.

The key thing is to encourage learners to engage with the sources and to explore how and why they offer help and guidance to followers, and at times it may even be appropriate to involve them in researching and identifying useful sources themselves.

The Specimen Question Paper gives an idea of the kinds of things which would attract marks in the exam, so this can be used to give an idea of the amount of detail needed to obtain full marks.

Will there be any additional National 5 exemplar Unit assessment material?

There are no plans for SQA to produce further Unit assessments.

Centres can use the Unit assessment support packs at National 3, National 4 and National 5 to:

- ◆ assess their candidates
- ◆ adapt for their own assessment programmes
- ◆ help them to develop their own assessments

The example assessment task is designed to provide valid assessment of relevant Assessment Standards, by making appropriate demands of candidates using a context that is meaningful and engaging. However, centres are encouraged to adapt the task and to use alternative approaches to facilitate personalisation and choice, while maintaining the validity and reliability of assessment.

Additional items will be added to the prior verified section of SQA's secure site.

When should the National 5 Assignment be set?

The assignment is to be set by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under controlled circumstances.

SQA will provide a brief for the generation of evidence to be assessed. Learners have an open choice of topic/issue to be researched.

The assessment must be conducted in time to meet a submission date set by SQA. These dates can be found in *A guide for teachers and lecturers to the new National Qualifications* available here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/CfE_Teachers_guide.pdf

What is the purpose of the National 5 Assignment resource sheet?

The purpose of the National 5 assignment resource sheet is for learners to write down evidence and references. It is not to help them structure their essay in terms of the content/paragraphs. Learners should refer to the resource sheet as they write their reports. Markers will also use it in this way — it isn't marked but it will help Markers gain an insight into what the learner intended. It is not what they put on the sheet but how they use it that will attract marks.

General Curriculum for Excellence questions and answers can be found on the [frequently asked questions section](#) of SQA's website.