



National
Qualifications

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Assignment

General assessment information

This pack contains general assessment information for centres preparing candidates for the assignment Component of Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Course assessment.

It must be read in conjunction with the specific assessment task(s) for this component of Course assessment, which may only be downloaded from SQA's designated secure website by authorised personnel.

This edition: September 2015 (version 1.1)

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Introduction

This is the general assessment information for the Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies assignment.

This assignment is worth 30 marks out of a total of 90 marks. This is approximately 33% of the overall marks for the Course assessment. The Course will be graded A-D.

Marks for all Course Components are added up to give a total Course assessment mark which is then used as the basis for grading decisions.

This is one of two Components of Course assessment. The other Component is a question paper.

This document describes the general requirements for the assessment of the Assignment Component of this Course. It gives general information and instructions for assessors.

It must be read in conjunction with the assessment task for this Component of Course assessment.

Equality and inclusion

This Course assessment 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 candidates and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html

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

What this assessment covers

This assessment contributes approximately 33% of the total marks for the Course.

The assessment will assess the skills, knowledge and understanding specified for the assignment in the *Course Assessment Specification*. These are:

- ◆ identifying an appropriate religious, moral or philosophical studies issue for study, about which there are different points of view
- ◆ researching the issue, using a range of sources of information
- ◆ evaluating different viewpoints on the issue, which must be religious, moral or philosophical
- ◆ analysing the issue
- ◆ synthesising information in a structured manner
- ◆ drawing on in-depth knowledge and understanding of the issue
- ◆ explaining the significance or impact of the issue drawing and presenting a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the issue
- ◆ measuring the strength of potential challenges/counter-arguments

Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate challenge and application by requiring the candidate to draw on and apply skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a religious, moral or philosophical issue. This may be related to areas they have studied in class if they wish, but they are free to research any religious, moral and philosophical studies issue.

Assessment overview

This assessment has a research stage and a production of evidence stage.

Candidates should identify an issue which allows them to research a range of views. They should research the issue, and record and organise their findings to address the issue. Candidates should use the information collected during their research to support them to produce evidence. This will be recorded on the RMPS Resource Sheet.

Assessors should provide reasonable guidance on the types of issue which will enable candidates to meet all of the requirements of this Assignment. They may also give guidance to candidates on the likely availability and accessibility of resources for their chosen issue.

Candidates should work on their research with minimum support from the assessor.

Assessment conditions

Assessors must exercise their professional responsibility in ensuring that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work.

This assignment has two stages:

- ◆ A research stage which will include identifying an issue, collecting evidence, organising, analysing, evaluating and synthesising information from a range of sources and preparation time for the production of evidence. This stage has been designed to be capable of completion over a notional period of eight hours.
- ◆ A production of evidence stage which must be completed within one hour and 30 minutes.

Candidates should undertake the research stage at any appropriate point in the Course. This will normally be when they have developed the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding. Candidates should undertake the production of evidence stage in time to meet the submission date set by SQA.

During the research stage of this assessment, there are no restrictions on the resources to which candidates may have access.

During the final production of evidence stage of the assessment, candidates should only have access to evidence collected during the research stage of the assignment and recorded on the RMPS Resource Sheet.

Candidates must undertake the production of evidence independently. However, reasonable assistance may be provided prior to the production of evidence taking place. Reasonable assistance includes the provision of support and guidance which does not impact significantly on the independence of the candidate in terms of the research and production of the assignment.

The **research stage** will be conducted under some supervision and control. This means that although candidates may complete part of the work outwith the learning and teaching setting, assessors should put in place processes for monitoring progress and ensuring that the work is the candidate's own and that plagiarism has not taken place. For example:

- ◆ interim progress meetings with candidate
- ◆ questioning
- ◆ candidate's record of activity/progress
- ◆ assessor observation

Group work approaches are acceptable as part of the research stage. However, there must be clear evidence for each candidate to show that the candidate has met the evidence requirements.

The **production of evidence stage** will be conducted under a high degree of supervision. This means that:

- ◆ candidates must be in direct sight of the assessor (or other responsible person) during the period of the assessment
- ◆ candidates must not communicate with each other
- ◆ candidates should only have access to the specified resources (the Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Resource Sheet)

Evidence to be gathered

The following candidate evidence is required for this assessment:

- ◆ candidate assignment evidence produced under a high degree of supervision
- ◆ Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Resource Sheet – candidates may use only one side of this single A4 sheet.

General marking instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following general marking instructions are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing learners for Course assessment.

This assessment task will be externally marked by SQA and conducted in centres under the conditions specified by SQA.

General marking principles for Higher RMPS assignment

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses in this assignment. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed Marking Instructions which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- a) Marks for each candidate response will **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed Marking Instructions for this assignment.
- b) Principal Assessors will provide guidance on marking specific candidate responses which are not covered by either the principles or detailed Marking Instructions.
- c) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- d) The purpose of the Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Resource Sheet is to support candidates in presenting the findings of their research. It will not be marked or form any part of the assessment but must be included with the candidate's submission.

Candidates can structure their assignment evidence in a variety of ways.

Candidates can demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways and at different points in their assignment evidence. Markers should credit relevant and appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding wherever they are demonstrated.

In presenting their findings, candidates will show the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

A KU Skills (12 marks)

- ◆ Researching the issue
- ◆ Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the issue

B Analytical Skills (10 marks)

- ◆ Analysing the issue
- ◆ Synthesising information in a structured manner
- ◆ Explaining the significance or impact of the issue

C Evaluative Skills (8 marks)

- ◆ Evaluating different viewpoints on the issue, which must be religious, moral or philosophical
- ◆ Presenting a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the issue
- ◆ Measuring/judging different aspects of potential challenges/counter-arguments

Specified resources to be taken into assessment

Candidates may take evidence collected during the research phase into the production of evidence stage, using the Religious, Moral and Religious Studies Resource Sheet. The Resource Sheet must be submitted with the evidence produced during the final production of evidence stage. The Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Resource Sheet will be a single side of A4 paper.

The Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Resource Sheet taken into the production of evidence stage may include, for example: evidence/data from research; bullet points/headings; mind maps; summary notes/quotes from sources of information; survey results; interview questions and/or answers; questionnaires and/or results; details of internet search results; summary notes from newspaper articles or extracts; extracts from books; summary notes taken from a visit or talk; summary notes taken from a written or audio visual source, etc.

Candidates can refer to the evidence they have recorded on the RMPS Resource Sheet to support their production of evidence but should not just copy large amounts of this evidence. It is what the candidate does with the evidence that is important.

Administrative information

Published: September 2015 (version 1.1)

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Clarification of requirements of the assignment. Removal of 'question'; addition of 'moral or philosophical viewpoint'. Removal of the 'contemporary' relevance. Further clarification of marking instructions, instructions for candidates and use of Resource Sheet.	Qualifications Manager	September 2015

Security and confidentiality

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