



National
Qualifications

National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Assignment

General assessment information

This pack contains general assessment information for centres preparing candidates for the assignment Component of National 5 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.

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Introduction

This is the general assessment information for the National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies assignment.

This assignment is worth 20 marks. The marks contribute 25% 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 25% 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 issue for study, about which there are different points of view
- ◆ researching the issue, using a range of sources of information including different viewpoints, which must be religious, moral or philosophical
- ◆ analysing information in a structured manner
- ◆ drawing on detailed factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding to explain and analyse key features of the issue
- ◆ commenting on the significance or impact of the issue
- ◆ drawing and presenting a detailed and reasoned conclusion on the issue, with reference to both supporting information and potential challenges or counter-arguments

Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to generate evidence for this Component of the Added Value of this Course by means of an assignment.

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

Assessment overview

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

Candidates should choose an issue which allows them to research a range of views including a relevant religious, moral or philosophical viewpoint. They should research the issue 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 Component. They may also give guidance to candidates as to 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 researching stage which will include choosing an issue, collecting evidence, organising, evaluating and preparation time for the production of evidence. This stage has been designed to be capable of completion over a notional period of 8 hours.
- ◆ A production of evidence stage which must be completed within one hour.

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. The term 'reasonable assistance' is used to try to balance the need for support with the need to avoid giving too much assistance. If any candidates require more than what is deemed to be 'reasonable assistance', they may not be ready for assessment or it may be that they have been entered for the wrong level of qualification.

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.

Assessors should put in place mechanisms to authenticate that the research is the candidate's own work. For example:

- ◆ interim progress meetings with candidates
- ◆ 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 RMPS Resource Sheet)

Evidence to be gathered

The following candidate evidence is required to be submitted for this assessment:

- ◆ RMPS Resource Sheet
- ◆ Candidate evidence produced under a high degree of supervision

General Marking Instructions

Part One: General marking principles for National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies 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 specific Marking Instructions contained in the assessment task.

- ◆ Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific Marking Instructions.
- ◆ If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either these principles or detailed Marking Instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your Team Leader/Principal Assessor.
- ◆ Marking should always be positive, ie marks should be awarded for what is correct and not deducted for errors or omissions.
- ◆ The purpose of the RMPS Resource Sheet is to help candidates use their evidence and references, collected during the research stage, to address their chosen issue. The Resource Sheet should be a single-sided sheet of A4 and should be no more than 200 words. No marks will be awarded for directly copying extended pieces of text/narrative from the Resource Sheet.
- ◆ The Resource Sheet should not be marked. It is intended only to assist the candidate in the presentation of their evidence.

In presenting their findings, candidates should:

- A. Comment on the significance or impact of the issue
- B. Use information from different sources
- C. Use knowledge and understanding
- D. Explain and analyse aspects of the issue
- E. Present a conclusion about the issue
- F. Support the conclusion with reasons

A. Comment on the significance or impact of the issue

Candidates should comment on the significance or impact of a religious/moral/philosophical issue.

A total of 4 marks can be awarded to A.

B. Use information from different sources

C. Use knowledge and understanding

D. Explain and analyse aspects of the issue

Candidates should clearly show that they have used information from sources to explain and analyse the issue, including taking account of at least one religious, moral or philosophical viewpoint.

A total of 10 marks can be awarded to B, C and D combined.

E. Present a conclusion about the issue

F. Support the conclusion with reasons

Candidates should present a conclusion which is supported with valid reasons. The conclusion may be presented at any point in their writing, for example, as evidence presented or at the end.

A total of 6 marks can be awarded to E and F combined.

Specified resources to be taken into assessment

Candidates may take evidence collected during the research phase into the production of evidence stage, using the RMPS Resource Sheet. The RMPS Resource Sheet must be submitted with the evidence produced during the final production of evidence stage.

The RMPS Resource Sheet taken into the production of evidence stage should show evidence of the research carried out by the candidate and may include, for example: research data; survey results; interview questions and/or answers; questionnaires and/or results; details of internet search results; newspaper articles or extracts; extracts from books; notes taken from a visit or talk; and notes taken from a written or audio visual source etc. Candidates can receive guidance from their assessor on the type of resources which would be appropriate for the assignment at this SCQF level.

The purpose of the RMPS Resource Sheet is to help candidates in addressing their chosen issue. The Resource Sheet should be a single-sided sheet of A4 and should be no more than 200 words. No marks will be awarded for directly copying extended pieces of text/narrative from the Resource Sheet. The Resource Sheet should not be marked. It is intended only to assist the candidate in the presentation of their evidence.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Further information supplied about the purpose of the Resource Sheet.	Qualifications Manager	January 2015
1.2	Clarification of requirements of the assignment: removal of 'topic'; addition of 'moral or philosophical viewpoint'; removal of '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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