



Study of Religion 2025 v1.2

IA2: Sample assessment instrument

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers in planning and developing assessment instruments for individual school settings.

Student name	sample only
Student number	sample only
Teacher	sample only
Issued	sample only
Due date	sample only

Marking summary

Criterion	Marks allocated	Provisional marks
Explaining	6	
Analysing	7	
Evaluating	7	
Communicating	5	
Overall	25	

Conditions

Technique	Investigation — inquiry response
Unit	Unit 3: Religious ethics
Topic/s	Topic 2: Personal ethics
Duration	Approximately 15 hours of class time
Mode / length	Written: up to 2000 words
Individual / group	Individual
Other	<p>Select one issue from the list the teacher has provided of contemporary personal ethical issues and nominate a specific focus.</p> <p>Respond using the specified world religion.</p> <p>Devise a hypothesis for the focus of the inquiry.</p> <p>Investigate the issue by conducting research using the inquiry process.</p> <p>Analyse the issue from the selected religious perspective.</p> <p>Write an analytical essay.</p>
Resources	Access to sacred texts and authoritative sources, library and online sources as required.

Context

You have been studying how religious adherents address personal ethical issues in a situation or situations that require them to consider the implications of a moral decision in relation to their faith tradition. As a class, you have explored the various ways that adherents in Christian traditions explore personal issues in a contemporary society. You have explored various perspectives and approaches when addressing problems and identifying alternatives when faced with making a significant personal ethical decision.

Task

Select one contemporary ethical issue from the list below and identify a specific aspect as the focus for your inquiry.

Investigate the influence of religious ethics on a Christian adherent concerning a response to the selected contemporary ethical issue. Explain features and expressions of Christianity and the ways they inform and influence a response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected.

Analyse perspectives of religious expression, incorporating relevant information from religious texts and other authoritative sources, to explain Christianity's influence when responding to a contemporary personal ethical issue. Evaluate the significance and influence of Christianity on religious–ethical stances made by adherents when responding to the chosen issue.

Create an analytical essay to present your findings. Ensure you acknowledge all sources using a recognised reference system.

The contemporary ethical issue is to be selected from the following:

- beginning and end of life, e.g. reproductive technologies, palliative care
- pivotal life events or situations, e.g. arranged marriages, having/raising/disciplining children, contentious objection in medicine/military service
- body image, e.g. cosmetic enhancement, tattooing
- interpersonal conflict, e.g. domestic violence, misuse of social media or messaging
- medical technologies, e.g. organ farming, genetic engineering, xenotransplantation
- substance abuse, e.g. steroids in sport.

Checkpoints

- ☐ (After approximately 3 hours of 15): Planning check, hypothesis devised
- ☐ (After approximately 6 hours of 15): Progress check, hypothesis, information gathering and research underway
- ☐ (After approximately 9 hours of 15): Progress check, hypothesis, information gathering and research progress, referencing details, drafting
- ☐ (After approximately 12 hours of 15): Draft due
- ☐ (After approximately 15 hours of 15): Final submission

Authentication strategies

- You will be provided class time for task completion.
- Your teacher will observe you completing work in class.
- Your teacher will collect copies of your response and monitor at key junctures.
- Your teacher will collect and annotate a draft.
- You must submit a declaration of authenticity.
- Your teacher will conduct interviews or consultations as you develop the response.
- Your teacher will ensure class cross-marking occurs.
- You will produce a unique response by negotiating the focus of your investigation with your teacher and creating an individual hypothesis.
- You will use school approved plagiarism-detection software to submit your response.
- You will provide documentation of your progress at nominated checkpoints.

Instrument-specific marking guide (IA2): Investigation — Inquiry response (25%)

Explaining	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensive and relevant identification of the distinguishing features of one religious tradition that informs its ethical teachings thorough and detailed description of characteristics of one religious tradition and the way it informs a response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected accurate and detailed explanation of the ways one religious tradition is expressed in the lives of adherents in response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant identification of the distinguishing features of one religious tradition and its ethical teachings description of characteristics of one religious tradition and the way it informs a response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected explanation of the ways one religious tradition is expressed in the lives of adherents in response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited identification of the features of one religious tradition and its ethical teachings basic description of characteristics of one religious tradition and the way it informs a response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected simplistic explanation of the ways one religious tradition is expressed in the lives of adherents in response to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected. 	1–2
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Analysing	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> critical selection and appropriate use of relevant information from religious texts and other authoritative sources to inform analysis of perspectives about religious expression within one religious tradition detailed and accurate explanation of distinct beliefs and practices within one religious tradition, including similarities and differences, that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected thorough examination of perspectives within one religious tradition that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected 	6–7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered selection and use of relevant information from religious texts and other authoritative sources to inform analysis of perspectives about religious expression within one religious tradition explanation of beliefs and practices within one religious tradition, including similarities and differences, that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected examination of perspectives within one religious tradition that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected 	4–5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> selection and use of information from religious texts and/or other authoritative sources to inform basic analysis of perspectives about religious expression within one religious tradition 	2–3

Analysing	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some explanation of beliefs and practices within one religious tradition that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected • basic examination of perspectives within one religious tradition that influence responses to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited selection and use of information from religious texts or other authoritative sources to inform statements about religious expression within one religious tradition • simplistic or erroneous statements about beliefs and/or practices within one religious tradition related to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected • one or more statements on a perspective within a religious tradition related to the contemporary personal ethical issue selected. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Evaluating	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thorough and succinct synthesis of ideas about the influence of religious ethics on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • discerning judgments about the significance of religion and its influence on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • detailed justification of judgments supported using reasoning and evidence 	6–7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered synthesis of ideas about the influence of religious ethics on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • appropriate judgments about the significance of religion and its influence on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • justification of judgments supported using reasoning and evidence 	4–5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some synthesis of ideas about religious ethics and a response to a contemporary personal ethical issue • basic judgments about the significance of religion and its influence on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • limited justification of judgments, supported with reasoning and/or evidence 	2–3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one or more statements about religious ethics and a response to a contemporary personal ethical issue • simplistic and/or erroneous judgments about the significance of religion and its influence on responses to a contemporary personal ethical issue • inaccurate and/or irrelevant justification. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Communicating	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate choice of religious language, logical, cohesive and succinct development of ideas suitable for the analytical essay genre, including creation of hypothesis • consistently appropriate application of language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) • consistent identification and acknowledgment of sources, accurately using a recognised/prescribed system of referencing 	4–5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate choice of religious language, development of ideas suitable for the analytical essay genre, including creation of hypothesis • application of language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) • acknowledgment of sources using a system of referencing 	2–3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some use of religious language, with ideas related to a hypothesis and features of an essay • limited application of language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) • limited acknowledgment of sources. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0



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