Why study Religion and Ethics?
Subject Area Syllabus — Subject guide

What is Religion and Ethics all about?
Religion and Ethics encourages you to explore your personal values and life choices and how they are related to your beliefs. The course of study provides you with opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of yourself as a human being and how your personal beliefs, values and spiritual identity are shaped and influenced by factors such as family, culture, gender, race, class and economic issues.

What will you learn?
Religion and Ethics helps you to understand the personal, relational and spiritual perspectives of human experience and to learn about and reflect on the richness of religious and ethical worldviews and traditions. These perspectives are explored through electives that deal with issues such as the meaning of life, spirituality, purpose and destiny, life choices, ethics and morality, good and evil, heroes and role models, and social justice.

You will gain knowledge and understanding of yourself as a human being who asks questions about life and what gives meaning to life. Seeking answers for these questions may help you in the search for personal meaning and purpose, and to clarify your beliefs and ethical values.

Through exploring your own belief system and the 'big questions' of life you can come to an understanding of how religion, beliefs and spiritualities influence human values and behaviours and gain an appreciation of cultural and religious diversity.

How will you learn?
Religion and Ethics challenges you to examine religious, spiritual and ethical issues through an inquiry approach. This means being curious, asking questions, reflecting on the information you gather through research and investigation, and appraising and reconsidering the consequences and outcomes.

As activities in Religion and Ethics are practical and experiential in emphasis, much of your learning will be based in community settings, whether it is your classroom or school, local religious communities, charities, welfare and/or service groups and organisations. These connections build your awareness and understanding of life beyond school through authentic, real-world interactions.

How will you be assessed?
Assessment in Religion and Ethics gives you opportunities to develop and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the personal, relational and spiritual perspectives of human experience. Assessment instruments include:

- projects, which provide you with authentic, real-world opportunities to inquire into a range of religious, spiritual, social and ethical issues; a response includes at least two components chosen from written, spoken, multimodal, performance or product
investigations, which are research based and follow an inquiry approach to a specific question or hypothesis
extended responses to stimulus materials such as religious symbols/artefacts, images, texts or articles
short response examinations.

In Semesters 3 and 4, you will be expected to complete four to six assessment instruments, including one project or investigation, and one examination.

How can parents/carers help?
Your parents/carers may help you by:
- discussing different views about religion and ethics with you
- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in this area of study or related industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

Where can Religion and Ethics take you?
This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) if you receive a Sound Achievement or higher. If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website, www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html.

A course of study in Religion and Ethics can establish a basis for further education and employment as it helps you develop the personal, interpersonal and citizenship skills and attributes necessary in all workplaces. It allows you to manage change, to be resilient and adaptive, and to develop strategies so that you can cope with the demands, not only of everyday life, but also of continuing studies, employment and future careers.

More information
This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Religion and Ethics Subject Area Syllabus 2014. If you would like more information, please:
- visit the subject page on the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30488.html
- email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au.