This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Study of Religion Senior Syllabus 2008.

Why study Study of Religion?

Through the study of religion students can learn to understand the causes and processes of change and continuity that have shaped today’s world, and the role religion plays in this. The social context in which Australian students live is challenged by global interrelationships. Studying religion can help develop an understanding of the ways in which particular cultural contexts have influenced, and continue to influence, the formation of an individual’s world view and the framework of beliefs in which it is interpreted. The intention of the Study of Religion syllabus is educational and fosters dialogue about religious perspectives. The syllabus recognises the significance of spiritual beliefs and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The subject is available to all students irrespective of individual religious belief.

What is studied?

The senior Study of Religion syllabus is designed around three core components, five topics and a school-based topic. A course of study must include a minimum of four topics and integrated core components. Each topic has areas of inquiry that may be selected. These offer additional flexibility and choice for both students and teachers.

The three core components contain significant ideas and concepts that are central to the study of religion. They are:

- Australian religious perspectives
- World religions
- The nature and significance of religion.

The five topics provide in-depth study of specific aspects or phenomenon related to religion. The topics are:

- Religion-state relationships
- Ritual
- Sacred texts
- Ultimate questions
- Religion, values and ethics
How do students learn?

Students learn through the inquiry method in the Study of Religion. A structure for the process of inquiry is given and this guides students to investigate information and direct their thinking skills. The process of inquiry contributes to their ability to formulate ideas, make judgments and reach conclusions. It encourages students to move beyond acquisition of facts to the development of ideas and concepts.

Learning activities are shaped by framing, investigating, reasoning, judging, reflecting. In each core component and topic, inquiry questions are provided with related ideas and concepts to investigate.

How are students assessed?

Criteria that are consistent with the objectives of the course of study are used to determine standards of student work. Students are assessed by a variety of techniques so that they have an opportunity to demonstrate their best. Judgments are made about a student’s exit level of achievement, using three criteria:

- **Knowledge and understanding** (ability to recall explicit information about religion, and comprehend and apply information in familiar and unfamiliar contexts)
- **Evaluative processes** (ability to analyse, synthesise and evaluate information about religion)
- **Research and communication** (ability to gather, select, sort, organise and present information about religion). Schools use a variety of assessment techniques, including multimodal presentations, extended written responses, and response to stimulus tasks.

How can parents help?

The development of knowledge and skills about religion involves learning at home as well as at school and in the community. The study of religion can become a valuable source of communication between parents and their children. This will tend to work better if there is an openness to express beliefs and to listen to one another.

Parents can help by:

- keeping abreast of current events and news items
- discussing important religious and social issues with their children
- participating actively in community activities
- building a store of home reference materials and encouraging students to make use of community resources (references on DVD and CD-ROM available through local libraries, magazines, newspapers and current affairs programs on TV and radio).

More information

If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for ‘Study of Religion’.