

STUDIES OF RELIGION

Guide to the New TASC Course



The new *Studies of Religion* TASC level 3 course is nationally comparable with other Australian jurisdictions studies in religion.

Teachers will continue to have the flexibility to make decisions on the emphasis to be given to particular areas of content and any adjustments required, based on the needs, interests and abilities of their students.

WHAT IS SIMILAR?

Students will continue to:

- examine the place and function of religious traditions in society
- undertake non-biased investigation into the co-existence of religious and secular traditions in Australia and globally
- adopt an inclusive approach to ways of perceiving and interpreting religious issues. The course does not promote any particular religious tradition or viewpoint; it is designed to be available to all learners, irrespective of the existence, or nature, of any individual religious beliefs.
- continue to undertake studies in religious traditions, which may be variants, as well as the study of the expression of religious traditions and beliefs; study topics around worldview, foundational texts, and ultimate questions such as faith versus reason and the existence of suffering
- elect topics of interest to learners; these include theist and non-theist approaches
- explore and evaluate different religious and ethical perspectives in society.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

- The Introduction to the course is now compulsory; guidelines have been provided in Appendix B.
- Learners complete three compulsory core units and one elective unit.

- The expression of religious traditions is now embedded in Study 1 on Religious Traditions and Beliefs; expression of religious traditions is no longer an elective study.
- Course content and inquiries in the elective units build on the knowledge and skills developed in the compulsory units.
- *Significant Challenge and Change* incorporates a study on historical or contemporary religious traditions and introduces the elective study of religion in Ancient Societies.
- Elective units have been limited to 4; learners respond to 1 only.

HOW DOES THE COURSE CATER FOR ALL STUDENTS?

- It is recommended that learners undertaking this course have achieved an A/B (or C in consultation with teachers) in Year 10 Australian Curriculum *English or History* or a CA in *Religion in Society 2*.
- The *Studies of Religion* level 3 course is inclusive of the learning needs of all students.
- Particular advice about supporting students with needs can be found on the TASC website.

WHAT SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

- A course supplement designed to support teachers new to or returning to teaching this course.
- Professional Learning to support course implementation.
- Advice on programming (scope and sequence documentation).