

Pilot Assessment Schedule – 2023

Religious Studies RAS: Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions (91918)

Assessment Criteria

Note for markers

What follows is not a complete list of all acceptable responses, nor is it an indication of the exact wording required. Evidence included here reflects the skills demonstrated in relation to the criteria in the standard.

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions</i> involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describing a characteristic that is shared by identified religious or spiritual traditions describing the meaning of the characteristic within the religious or spiritual traditions. 	<p><i>Explain a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions</i> involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explaining how the characteristic is applied within the religious or spiritual traditions. 	<p><i>Examine a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions</i> involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examining connections between the characteristic and its application within religious or spiritual traditions <p>Connections could involve examining the broader implications of the characteristic or wider connections within the characteristic of two religious or spiritual traditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This could involve finding similarities and differences between the expression of a characteristic within the two religious or spiritual traditions.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	7 – 8

Sample Evidence

Question ONE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Beliefs are the life blood of religious and spiritual traditions.</i></p> <p><i>How do the beliefs of two different religious or spiritual traditions interact with one another?</i></p>	<p>The Rātana church believes that the faithful angels are God's workers and helpers who actively do his will. This means that they will help followers of Jesus in need and help followers to love him.</p> <p>Māori spirituality holds the belief of many gods and guardians who are the direct tīpuna or ancestors of people today. This means that many Māori feel directly connected to aspects of nature that the gods represent.</p>	<p>Anahera pono (faithful angels) have an important role in the Rātana church, as they are God's heralds. Worshippers believe that the faithful angels of Jehovah actively do God's work and that those who follow the Gospel of Jehovah will receive help and guidance from the angels.</p> <p>People focus their worship on specific guardians in traditional Māori spirituality. These guardians or atua represent important aspects of the spiritual and material world we live in. People interact with specific atua, depending on their setting. For example, when planting crops, people would pay homage to Rongo, the god of agriculture.</p> <p>The Rātana church puts faith in their god as well as the faithful angels. However, traditional Māori spirituality has different gods or guardians for different aspects of their faith.</p>	<p>The Rātana church places emphasis on the connection between people, God, and the angels, and that the Holy Angels can offer a way to intervene or assist people when needed. This is a distinct Christian belief that most other churches do not follow.</p> <p>Traditional Māori spirituality involves the belief that all living things are descended from the gods, embodied within certain mountains, rivers, and lakes. All things have a type of soul – the wairua. This is why Māori have strong spiritual ties to the land.</p> <p>Both traditional Māori spirituality and the Rātana faith place emphasis on interacting with guardians. However, in traditional spirituality, Māori would do this by following customs that show commitment and respect to nature, whereas members of Rātana gain guidance and a stronger connection to God through their co-existence with angels.</p>

Question TWO	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Some religious and spiritual traditions lack the use of material expression, such as art and icons.</i></p> <p><i>Compare views about material expression in two different religious or spiritual practices.</i></p>	<p>In Islam, the prophet Mohammad is not shown through material expression, as the central tenet of Islam is the worship of God alone. This means that Muslims do not worship idols.</p> <p>In Protestant Christianity, the use of statues is restricted, depending on different churches. The meaning behind this is that statues can take away from a worshipper's direct connection to God.</p>	<p>In Islam, there is an issue with the use of images when it comes to representing God. This is because God cannot be limited by any object of God's creation.</p> <p>In Protestant Christianity, the use of statues is restricted for fear of breaking the second commandment – that you should not have graven images. Both take this view out of respect for their understanding of God's 'otherness' from creation.</p>	<p>In Islam, there is an issue with the use of images when it comes to representing God. This is because God cannot be limited by any object of God's creation. Also, images of God and the prophets can lead to a wrong understanding, as all depictions will characterise God and the prophets in a certain way.</p> <p>In Protestant Christianity, there is debate about how the cross is represented in church. Many Protestant traditions prefer the symbol of an empty cross, because it reminds them that Jesus is still alive. The image of the crucifix hides God's glory, and to some Protestants, dims God's beauty.</p>

Question THREE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Narratives of religious and spiritual traditions often contain a message of hope.</i></p> <p><i>How do narratives from two religious or spiritual traditions offer ways of helping people to get through life's challenges?</i></p>	<p>Catholics find hope in the teachings from the Bible, which help them to know that God is with them, even if they do not understand why they are facing what they are facing.</p> <p>Buddhists understand that the way to face off the challenge of suffering is to get rid of human desires. This helps humans to face tough times.</p>	<p>In the book of Job, in the Old Testament, Catholics find their understanding of God through the time of suffering. God is there with them and supporting them, even if it is unclear to the person suffering. Job finds hope in the reflection that God's perspective is greater than his own, and that while he cannot understand God's plans, he has a part to play in them.</p> <p>Buddhist views arise from their teaching of the four noble truths in the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta text. They understand suffering, and this provides a basis for hope. Moving beyond desire to find peace in suffering is a central part of the Buddhist teaching.</p>	<p>The view of Catholics and Buddhists are distinct, but both offer hope in different ways to people who are suffering.</p> <p>Jesus is the central focus of Catholic teaching, because he is God who became human. Thus, Jesus opens the way to understand human life and the life of God united. Interestingly, what we know of Jesus is that even though he was without sin, he still entered into human suffering. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions. This suggests that there is a path to peace which is found through the experience of suffering.</p> <p>The Buddha found his great enlightenment through a journey which saw the role of desire as a cause of suffering. In the Four Noble Truths, the Buddha seeks to reposition the human person in relation to their desire to achieve an internal peace.</p> <p>So, while the different religions see peace as an important antidote to suffering, they go about this process in very different ways.</p>

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
Provides very little relevant evidence about a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions.	Provides insufficient relevant evidence about a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions.	Provides a relevant example of, or context for , a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions, and describes its meaning within two such traditions. <i>There may be imbalance in the description within the two religious or spiritual traditions.</i>	Provides a detailed relevant example of, or context for, a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions, and describes its meaning within two such traditions. <i>There is a balance between the two religious or spiritual traditions.</i>	Explains an application of a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using relevant evidence.	Explains, in detail , an application of a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using clear and balanced evidence.	Examines the connections between the characteristic and its application found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using relevant evidence.	Examines, in detail , the connections between the characteristic and its application found in two religious or spiritual traditions to show a comprehensive understanding , including perceptive conclusions .

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.