

**Assessment Schedule – 2024****Religious Studies: Demonstrate understanding of a characteristic of religious or spiritual traditions (91918)****Assessment Criteria**

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

**Cut Scores**

<b>Not Achieved</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Achievement with Merit</b>	<b>Achievement with Excellence</b>
0–2	3–4	5–6	7–8

**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.

**Sample Evidence**

Question ONE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Ethical beliefs define what is good in religions.</i></p> <p><i>Explain what is good in two different religious or spiritual traditions you have studied.</i></p>	<p>A Buddhist ethical belief that is good is the moral precept of refraining from taking lives. This encourages Buddhists to take care of living things and to practice peace over violence.</p> <p>Christians see that love is important to what is good, and this is seen in what is taught in the Bible about Jesus.</p>	<p>In Buddhism, the five moral precepts provide a guide to living a good life that could lead towards enlightenment. If people are able to follow the five precepts, they will be able to lead a life of <i>karuna</i> (compassion) for those who are suffering.</p> <p>The Bible provides a comprehensive ethical framework based on love, compassion, and forgiveness. Key verses such as 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18) and 'Do to others what you would have them do to you' (Matthew 7:12) form the foundation of Christian morality.</p>	<p>The first precept expresses the overarching Buddhist ethical value of ahimsa – which means non-harming. As a result, the importance of love and kindness is a value that Buddhists promote. These values are expressed in people's daily lives. Buddhists believe that there is nothing material to be gained by being good, but following the precepts and following ethical practice will change his or her life.</p> <p>The Christian sees the good as finding its origin in God. Christians therefore will seek to read the Bible and pray often in order to learn what is good, and reflect that in their daily lives; "Pray continually." (Thes 5:17). This means that Christians would support the taking of public holidays at Easter, as a chance to reflect on the good of Easter, in terms of its true significance for Christians and the wider world.</p> <p>Both of these views of the good change the way that these people will interact with commercial interest in society. They form a view of the good, which shows that while material things have value, the source of goodness is deeper than material concerns alone.</p>

Question TWO	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Rituals often help to give meaning to people's lives.</i></p> <p><i>Explain the different ways in which a ritual gives meaning to people's lives in two different religious or spiritual traditions you have studied.</i></p>	<p>In Judaism, a ritual that gives meaning to people's lives is Shabbat – the day of rest. Instead of working, people attend prayers and strengthen their connection to God.</p> <p>Catholic rituals are integral to the spiritual lives of the faithful. The rituals provide meaning through their connection to the Paschal Mystery.</p>	<p>In the Old Testament, God made heaven and earth in six days, and on the seventh day he rested. Shabbat helps to bring meaning to Jewish people, as they are connecting to God by following his actions.</p> <p>For Catholics, engaging in rituals facilitates spiritual growth and transformation. For example, the Sacrament of Penance not only offers forgiveness, but also encourages self-reflection and moral development. This sacrament helps individuals confront their shortcomings and fosters a desire for personal improvement and reconciliation with God and the community, as is taught in Lumen Gentium 11.</p>	<p>The ritual of observing Shabbat in Judaism takes place not only at the synagogue, but also at home.</p> <p>At home, Jews welcome the Sabbath once the sun sets on the Friday with two lit candles, prayers, and a feast of specially prepared kosher food. Songs and games are shared after the meal. This helps to promote <i>shalom bayit</i> (peace in the home), which creates a greater sense of family connectivity and Jewish identity.</p> <p>Catholic rituals are seen as channels of grace, providing spiritual nourishment and healing. The sacraments, including Baptism, Confirmation, and Penance, are understood as a means through which God imparts grace to the faithful. For example, the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers forgiveness and renewal, allowing individuals to experience God's mercy and to reconcile with both God and the community. This aspect of ritual emphasises the transformative power of grace in the lives of believers.</p> <p>This grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be expressed to others through forgiveness that extends beyond the ritual, such as the Australian family who forgave a drunk driver who killed their children in Sydney in 2020.</p> <p>Both ritual experiences provide a connection to a transcendence that goes beyond themselves into the world and people whom they connect with.</p>

Question THREE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Religious or spiritual experiences can offer meaning and purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Explain how the experiences of two different religious or spiritual traditions offer meaning and purpose.</i></p>	<p>In Islam, an experience of feeling awe and wonder is connected to the act of praying to Allah. This experience brings meaning to people, as they feel connected to Allah as if they are directly speaking to God in their prayers.</p> <p>In Pentecostal Christianity, a religious experience often takes place after a baptism with the Holy Spirit. After the baptism there is often a sign or experience, such as the gift of tongues (speaking in tongues). This brings meaning to worshippers, as they are able to show how they have been affected by baptism in the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Spiritual experiences in Islam are obtained by carrying out rituals or practices. For example, by fasting during Ramadan, Muslims may not simply have physical experiences of hunger, thirst, and tiredness, but a spiritual experience, feeling, or growth through sacrifice. These experiences bring purpose to their religious rituals.</p> <p>In the Bible, speaking in tongues accompanies baptism in the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Book of Acts, people who were filled with the Spirit spoke in tongues. So when Pentecostal followers are baptised in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues helps to show that the Spirit is active in their lives. This experience gives meaning and helps to provide concrete evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>In Islam, the highest possible level a human being can get to is the one that has been reached by the Prophet Muhammad. This experience is called <i>miraj</i>, which means ladder or ascension. In this experience, he was in a state of consciousness and wakefulness, and was led to having the vision of being in heaven and being in the direct presence of Allah. While not all people are capable of reaching that level of experience, just having the belief that Allah is all present in our universe can lead Muslims to spiritual experiences and a greater connection to Allah.</p> <p>For Pentecostal Christians, the experience of speaking in tongues allows people to communicate with God in a way that goes beyond normal human limitations. According to the Bible, Paul the apostle spoke in tongues as he prayed and worshipped God through song. By doing so, it strengthens one's faith.</p> <p>Both of these experiences allow people to feel more closely connected to God/Allah. They offer the potential for worshippers to have greater purpose in their commitment to God.</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 <b>insufficient</b> relevant evidence about a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions.	Provides a <b>relevant example</b> of, or <b>context for</b> , a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, and describes its meaning.  <i>Note: There may be some imbalance in the descriptions for the two religious or spiritual traditions.</i>	Provides a <b>detailed</b> relevant example of, or context for, a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, and describes its meaning.  <i>Note: There is a balance between the descriptions for the two religious or spiritual traditions.</i>	<b>Explains</b> an application of a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using relevant evidence.	<b>Explains</b> , in <b>detail</b> , an application of a characteristic found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using <b>clear and balanced</b> evidence.	<b>Examines the connections</b> between the characteristic and its application found in two religious or spiritual traditions, using <b>relevant</b> evidence.	Examines, <b>in detail</b> , the connections between the characteristic and its application found in two religious or spiritual traditions to show a <b>comprehensive</b> understanding, including <b>perceptive conclusions</b> .

**N0** = No response; no relevant evidence.