VCE RELIGION AND SOCIETY STUDY REVIEW PLAN

Background

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is the statutory authority responsible for the development, approval, monitoring, evaluation and review of curriculum and assessment for the VCE and its studies. The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is the statutory authority responsible for the accreditation of the VCE and its studies, including periods of accreditation.

The current VCE Religion and Society Study Design is due to expire on 31 December 2022.

In 2019, it was determined that VCE Religion and Society would undergo a minor review in 2020. To support teachers to focus on the continuity of learning in their schools, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Board of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the CEO of the Victorian Regulations and Qualifications Authority have approved a 12 month extension to the accreditation periods for all accredited VCE study designs. The minor review for VCE Religion and Society will now continue into 2021.

Typically a minor review may involve:

* refinement and/or clarification of aspects of an area of study or outcome including key knowledge and key skills
* reorganisation of knowledge and skills between units, areas of study or outcomes
* introduction of some new content as key knowledge
* removal of some content to manage workload issues identified in monitoring and evaluation.

Terms of Reference

The review is conducted according to the Terms of Reference and the [*Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/2019_Principles_Procedures_VCE_review.docx)*.*

The Terms of Reference for the VCE Religion and Society review can be found in **Attachment 1.**

Study Writing Panel

A Study Writing Panel for VCE Religion and Society will meet regularly during 2020 and 2021 to develop a draft study design proposal.

The Study Writing Panel consists of up to three members and is selected by the Curriculum Manager for their high level of expertise and experience in the study or related disciplines, and their capacity to make timely and effective contribution to the work.

Study Review Timeline

The schedule for the review can be found in **Attachment 2.**

Consultation

Consultation is an important part of the VCAA’s curriculum and assessment development and review processes. Consultation informing a review process is broad, and consultation material is freely available to members of the public.

Consultation on the draft VCE Religion and Society Study Design will be conducted from
8 February to 8 March 2021. The draft study design and consultation questionnaire will be available for consideration on the [VCE Religion and Society](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/religion-and-society/Pages/Index.aspx) study webpage during that time.

To register your interest for the public consultation, please complete the [registration form](https://vcaa.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZFxMsslUlYI6z3).

Further information

For further information, please contact the Curriculum Manager of the review:

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VCE Curriculum Unit

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**Attachment 1:** Terms of reference

VCE RELIGION AND SOCIETY WRITING PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE
(Minor Review)

The VCE Religion and Society Writing Panel will undertake the review of the VCE Religion and Society Study Design, and will develop a draft study design proposal in accordance with the VCAA’s *Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*. The role of the panel is advisory and the proposed study design will be subject to endorsement by the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Committee (SSCAC) and approval by the Board of the VCAA.

When reviewing VCE Religion and Society, the Writing Panel is required to consider the following in relation to the existing study:

* any study-specific issues identified prior to commencing the review, including:
	+ enrolments and enrolment trends by unit and year level (including gender, sector and location)
	+ satisfactory completion rates by unit (including gender, sector and location)
	+ reports from the State Reviewer, Examination Panel Chair and Chief Assessor
	+ feedback from stakeholders including teachers and students
	+ evidence of uptake of any optional components with the study
	+ data from the School-based Assessment Audit
	+ grade distributions for all graded assessments
	+ relevant data from the external assessment program
	+ data from monitoring and evaluation activities.
* any proposed changes to the study
* the extent to which current research and developments in the discipline are appropriately reflected in the study
* the coherence of the overall structure of the study and consistency with its aims
* the relationship between the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the VCE study
* the implications of any proposed changes for the assessment program
* the appropriate use of ICT in school-based and external assessment
* how the study enables broad participation and the achievement of excellence
* teacher and student workload
* sources of gender, cultural or socioeconomic bias
* any specific facilities and resources required to deliver the study, including implications for the professional learning requirements for teachers.

Consultation

In the development of the proposal, the Writing Panel will ensure that it consults with key interest groups including:

* teachers and others on the VCE Study Register, interested in being consulted on VCE Religion and Society
* the State Reviewer, Examination Panel Chair and Chief Assessor
* relevant VCAA personnel including the Examination Development Manager, the VCE Assessment Project Manager and the Principal Psychometrician
* The Religion and Society Teachers’ Network (RASNET)
* the university sector
* peak representative agencies in Victoria including the Faith Communities Council of Victoria.

The consultation draft study design and questionnaire will be made available on the VCAA website during the consultation period.

**Attachment 2:** Timeline for the VCE Review

VCE RELIGION AND SOCIETY REVIEW TIMELINE

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| Milestone | Date |
| VCE Religion and Society approved by the VCAA Board to undergo a minor review in 2020 | October 2019 |
| Schools notified in the *VCAA Bulletin* of the VCE Religion and Society Review  | November 2019 |
| VCE Study Writing Panel selected | December 2019 |
| Study Writing Panel commence work | February 2020 |
| VRQA approved the extension to the accreditation period of the current VCE Religion and Society Study Design until 31 December 2022 due to support teachers to focus on remote and flexible learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. |  April 2020 |
| Public consultation on the draft VCE Religion and Society Study Design | 8 February to 8 March 2021 |
| Feedback from the public consultation and Independent Reviewer considered by the Study Writing Panel | April – June 2021 |
| VCAA Board approval of revised study design | August 2021 |
| VRQA approval of the accreditation period of the revised study design | October – November 2021 |
| Study Design published for 2023 implementation | Term 1, 2022 |
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