VCE Texts and Traditions 2017–2022

Study summary

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| **Please Note: This study summary includes excerpts from the VCE Texts and Traditions Study Design. The summary is not a substitute for the VCE Study Design. Users are advised to view the full accredited study design and other resources on the VCAA website.** |

Scope of study

The study of VCE Texts and Traditions considers the place and meaning of sacred texts within their religious traditions. In an attempt to understand the intended meaning of the texts, the study focuses on the original contexts of sacred texts and examines their literary characteristics. The study encompasses texts from the Christian, Islamic and Jewish traditions.

Rationale

The study of VCE Texts and Traditions equips students to develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between religious traditions and the written texts, which have grown from and shaped those traditions. It encourages independent and critical thinking in students that will assist them in work and further study, and in fields that require critical thinking about, and research, analysis and interpretation of written text.

Structure

The study is made up of four units:

Unit 1: Texts in traditions

Unit 2: Texts in society

Unit 3: Texts and the early tradition

Unit 4: Texts and their teachings

Each unit contains between two and three areas of study.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education.

Unit 1: Texts in traditions

In this unit students examine the place of texts and their literary forms within a religious tradition. Students explore the importance of texts at the source of a tradition and how their meaning for the earlier and continuing tradition might be found and described.

Unit 2: Texts in society

In this unit students study texts as a means of investigating social attitudes on different issues. They consider the social context within which the texts were produced, the conditions under which they are currently read, the reasons for reading them and the kinds of authority attributed to them by traditions and society in general. They compare how texts from different religious traditions treat common social issues.

Unit 3: Texts and the early tradition

In this unit students develop an understanding of how the chosen set text is a response to particular social, cultural, religious, political and historical needs and events. They explore the formation of the text itself, the intended audience of that text and the message or teaching found within the text. As a means of gaining an understanding of the content and message of the text, students become familiar with the nature of exegetical methods begin used today by scholars in the religious tradition of a selected set text.

Unit 4: Texts and their teachings

In this unit students apply exegetical methods begun in Unit 3 to greater depth. They study a significant idea, belief or theme contained in the set text, and consider the interpretation of the text in the light of the idea, belief or theme.

Assessment

Satisfactory completion

The award of satisfactory completion for a unit is based on a decision that the student has demonstrated achievement of the set of outcomes specified for the unit. This decision will be based on the teacher’s assessment of the student’s performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit.

Levels of achievement

Units 1 and 2

Procedures for the assessment of levels of achievement in Units 1 and 2 are a matter for school decision.

Units 3 and 4

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority will supervise the assessment of all students undertaking Units 3 and 4. In the study of VCE Texts and Traditions students’ level of achievement will be determined by school assessed coursework and external examination.

Percentage contributions to the study score in VCE Texts and Traditions are as follows:

* School assessed coursework for Unit 3: - 25 per cent
* School assessed coursework for Unit 4: - 25 per cent
* End-of-year examination: – 50 per cent