AGweddau REflections

Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru · Association of SACREs Wales

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HERIO AC YMESTYN: ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL LEFEL A

Tudor Thomas

Canolbwyntiodd cyflwyniad CYSAGau Cymru, Rhagfyr 2007 ar y lefel A diwygiedig newydd mewn Astudiaethau Crefyddol CBAC a gyflwynir ganddynt ym Medi 2008. Bu **Tudor Thomas**, Prif Reolwr Lefel Mynediad a Swyddog Pwnc Astudiaethau Crefyddol, yn trafod y prif faterion a'r her sydd ynghlwm wrth y fanyleb newydd.

DATBLYGU'R FANYLEB

Cefndir

Derbyniodd CBAC ynghyd â phob corff dyfarnu arall, Y Meini Prawf Pwnc gan y QCA/DCELLS lle gosodir allan y prif meini prawf gogyfer â datblygu'r fanyleb newydd. Pennir y cynnwys ynghyd â'r strwythur asesu gan y Cyrff Dyfarnu. Aelodau'r Pwyllgor datblygu oedd athrawon profiadol ac uwch arholwyr dan arweiniad Roger Owen, Cadeirydd yr Arholwyr a'r Adolygydd, John Summerwill a fu'n gweithredu fel ymgynghorydd ar gyfer y datblygiad.

Y materion pwysig

Roedd y materion pwysig a wynebai'r grŵp datblygu yn unol â gofynion y rheolyddion yn ymwneud â'r Synoptig a newid yn y cysyniad o 'synoptigiaeth'. Pwrpas y newidiadau oedd darparu mwy o her ac ymestyn gallu pob ymgeisydd, gwella ansawdd cyfathrebu ysgrifenedig er mwyn pwysleisio'r angen i sicrhau mynegiant mwy clir, ac i hwyluso'r asesu trwy leihau nifer yr unedau o 6 i 4 am fod Cwricwlwm 2000 wedi gorlwytho'r baich asesu yn ôl y farn gyffredinol.

Mae'r fanyleb newydd wedi ymdrin â synoptigiaeth fel a ganlyn. Cynhwysir yr elfen synoptig ym mhob uned A2. Er na nodir faint o'r elfen sydd i'w chynnwys yn y meini prawf newydd, newidiwyd y diffiniad o 'synoptig'. Bellach mae'n llawer mwy eang nag yn y manylebau blaenorol. Ym manyleb cwricwlwm 2000 neilltuwyd 20% o farciau lefel A (40% o A2) ar gyfer yr asesiad synoptig ac fe'i aseswyd yn gyfangwbl ar sail uned synoptig benodol (uned 9). Bydd rheolau newydd ynghlwm wrth y manylebau a ddaw i rym o 2009 ymlaen. Bellach, nid oes canran benodol o farciau wedi ei neilltuo ar gyfer y synoptig ond rhaid i bob uned A2 roi prawf ar yr elfen hon. Er mwyn cwrdd â'r angen hwn bu'n rhaid newid ffocws synoptigiaeth o olrhain cysylltiadau *rhwng* unedau i olrhain cysylltiadau o *fewn* unedau.

Y ffordd orau o ddehongli â synoptigiaeth yw ei ystyried fel dealltwriaeth gyflawn a di-dor o'r cyfan a ddysgwyd gan yr ymgeiswyr yn ystod eu cwrs. Bydd disgyblion â dealltwriaeth synoptig yn gweld sut mae un pwnc yn perthyn i bwnc arall a sut mae'r wybodaeth a ddysgwyd ar gyfer un rhan o'r cwrs yn berthnasol i gysyniadau a materion mewn rhan arall. Oherwydd eu meistrolaeth drylwyr ar

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT A-LEVEL

Tudor Thomas

The WASACRE presentation in December 2007 focused on the new revised A-level in Religious Studies being introduced by WJEC in September 2008. ***Tudor Thomas****, Principal Manager for Entry Level and Religious Studies Subject Officer, spoke about the main issues and challenges of the new specification.*

SPECIFICATION DEVELOPMENT

Background

The WJEC, as with all other awarding bodies, had received the Subject Specific Criteria from QCA/DCELLS. The criteria set out the main guidelines for the development of the new specification. The content is decided by the Awarding Bodies, along with the assessment structure. The development group consisted of experienced teachers and senior examiners, led by the Chair of Examiners, Roger Owen, and the Reviser, John Summerwill, who acted as a consultant for the development.

The big issues

The big issues facing the development group emanating from the regulators were concerned with the Synoptic and a change in the concept of 'synopticity'. The purposes of the changes were to provide greater stretch and challenge for all candidates; to change QWC (Quality of Written Communication) in order to place emphasis on greater clarity in expression, and to streamline assessment through a reduction from 6 to 4 units due to a general consensus that Curriculum 2000 had produced assessment 'overload'.

The new specification has tackled synopticity in the following way. The synoptic will be in all A2 units. Although the amount in the new criteria is not specified, the definition of 'synoptic' has changed. It is now much broader than in the previous specifications. In the Curriculum 2000 specification, the synoptic assessment had to carry 20% of the A-level marks (40% of A2) and was entirely assessed in a designated synoptic unit (Unit 9). For the specifications that will apply from 2009 onwards there are new regulations. There is no longer a designated percentage of marks for synoptic, but all A2 units must include some synoptic testing. In order to meet this requirement it has been necessary to shift the focus of synopticity from tracing connections *between* units to tracing connections *within* units.

The best way to grasp synopticity is to view it as a seamless, holistic understanding of all that the candidates have learned in their course of study. Candidates with a synoptic understanding see how one topic is related to another, and how knowledge learned in one part of the course is relevant to concepts and issues in another. Through

bob elfen, gallant ddolennu rhwng pynciau o fewn uned a rhwng modiwlau a'i gilydd. Trosglwyddir sgiliau a ddysgwyd mewn un rhan o'u hastudiaeth i ran arall. Mae technegau a ddefnyddiwyd yn llwyddiannus i ateb un cwestiwn yn cael eu haddasu'n hyblyg i ateb cwestiwn arall. Gall ymgeiswyr galluog yn aml ganfod cysylltiadau'n reddfol neu gydag ond ychydig o ysgogiad. Efallai na all ymgeiswyr gwan ffurfio cysylltiadau am fod eu gwybodaeth a'u dealltwriaeth o'r gwahanol elfennau'n rhy arwynebol neu ansicr. Maent yn methu cymhwyso'r sgiliau a ddysgwyd o fewn y naill gyd-destun ar gyfer cyd-destun arall. Wrth wynebu cwestiwn newydd neu agwedd wahanol ac annisgwyl ar bwnc penodol, mae ymgeiswyr galluog yn aml yn gallu ymresymu i gyrraedd y nod gan dynnu ar yr adnoddau sy'n rhan o'r cyfarpar meddyliol maent yn meddu arno. Gall ymgeiswyr gwan ysgrifennu ateb a ddysgwyd ganddynt ar gyfer cwestiwn gwahanol neu beidio â gwneud unrhyw ymdrech o gwbl. Felly, y gallu i ymdrin â synoptigiaeth, i raddau helaeth yw nod amgen y disgybl galluog a bydd hyn o gymorth i wahaniaethu rhyngddynt.

Ymestyn a herio ar gyfer AC

Bwriedir cyflwyno A* gan QCA/DCELLS. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r rheolyddion yn archwilio goblygiadau gweithredu'r radd A* newydd ar gyfer lefel A.

Ansawdd Cyfathrebu Ysgrifenedig

Bydd angen ystyried yr agwedd hon o safbwynt UG ac A2 ond ni neilltuir marc penodol ar ei gyfer.

STRWYTHUR CWRS

Astudir dau fodiwl ar gyfer UG:

- RS1 ac RS2 – Darganfod Astudiaethau Crefyddol

Astudir dau fodiwl ar gyfer U2:

- Astudio Crefydd
- Crefydd a'r Profiad Dynol

UG Astudiaethau Crefyddol

RS1

- Darganfod Astudiaethau Crefyddol (1) opsiwn dewisiedig 1
- Dau gwestiwn traethawd wedi eu strwythuro allan o bedwar dewis
- Papur ysgrifenedig 1¼ awr
- 25% o farc cyfanswm Lefel A – 90 marc (100 UMS)

RS2

- Darganfod Astudiaethau Crefyddol (1) opsiwn dewisiedig 1
- Dau gwestiwn traethawd wedi eu strwythuro allan o bedwar dewis
- Papur ysgrifenedig 1¼ awr
- 25% o gyfanswm marc Lefel A – 90 marc (100 UMS)

U2 Astudiaethau Crefyddol

RS3 Astudio Crefydd

- Un o'r opsiynau RS1/2 ar lefel uwch
- Dau draethawd wedi eu strwythuro, allan o bedwar dewis
- Papur ysgrifenedig 1¾ awr
- 25% o gyfanswm marc Lefel A – 100 marc (100 UMS)

RS4 Crefydd a'r Profiad Dynol

- Tri phwnc a gynigir ymlaen llaw ym mis Ionawr o'r flwyddyn arholi

a thorough grasp of each element, they can move on to make links between topics within a unit and to link one module with another. Skills learned in one part of their study are transferred. Techniques used successfully to answer one question are flexibly adapted to answer another. Able candidates can often perceive connections intuitively or with a little prompting. Weak candidates may be unable to make connections because their knowledge and understanding of the separate elements is too superficial and insecure. The skills they learn in one context, they fail to apply in another. Faced with a new question or an unusual and unexpected angle on a topic, able candidates will often reason their way through, drawing on the resources that are part of their mental furniture. Weak candidates may write their learned answer to a different question or give up without making an attempt. To a large degree, therefore, synopticity is the mark of the able candidate and will help to differentiate.

Stretch and challenge at A2

A* grade is to be introduced by QCA/DCELLS. At the moment the regulators are investigating the implementation of the new A* grade at A-level.

Quality of Written Communication

QWC will be required for AS and A2. QWC will not be given a discrete mark allocation.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Two Modules will be studied at AS:

- RS1 and RS2 – Discovering Religious Studies

Two Modules will be studied at A2:

- Studies in Religion
- Religion and Human Experience

AS Religious Studies

RS1

- Discovering Religious Studies (1) selected option 1
- Two structured essay questions out of a choice of four
- 1¼ hour written paper
- 25% of total A-level mark – 90 marks (100 UMS)

RS2

- Discovering Religious Studies (1) selected option 1
- Two structured essay questions out of a choice of four
- 1¼ hour written paper
- 25% of total A-level mark – 90 marks (100 UMS)

A2 Religious Studies

RS3 Studies in Religion

- One of the RS1/2 options at a higher level
- Two structured essay questions out of a choice of four
- 1¾ hour written paper
- 25% of total A-level 100 marks (100 UMS)

RS4 Religion and Human Experience

- Three topics pre-released in January of the year of examination

- Ymgeiswyr i ateb 1 cwestiwn wedi ei strwythuro allan o dri dewis
- Papur ysgrifenedig 1¾ awr
- 25% o gyfanswm marc Lefel A – 75 marc (100 UMS)

AMSERLEN ASESIAD

Darpariaeth yr Unedau Asesu

Uned	Ionawr 2009	Mehefin 2009	Ionawr 2010 a phob blwyddyn ddilynol	Mehefin 2010 a phob blwyddyn ddilynol
RS1	✓	✓	✓	✓
RS2	✓	✓	✓	✓
RS3			✓	✓
RS4			✓	✓

AROLWG O'R CYNNWYS

Mae'r holl gyfyngiadau a oedd ynghlwm wrth unedau opsiynol yn RS1, RS2, ac RS3. Gall canolfannau ddewis unrhyw **ddau** opsiwn ar gyfer UG:

- RS1/2 CS Cyflwyniad i Grefydd yn y Gymdeithas Cyfoes
- RS1/2 ETH Cyflwyniad i Grefydd a Moeseg
- RS1/2 PHIL Cyflwyniad i Athroniaeth Crefydd
- RS1/2 BS Cyflwyniad i Astudiaethau Beiblaidd (naill ai'r Hen Destament neu'r Testament Newydd)
- RS1/2 CHR Cyflwyniad i Gristnogaeth
- RS1/2 ER Cyflwyniad i Grefyddau'r Dwyrain (naill ai Bwdhaeth neu Hindŵaeth neu Sikhaeth)
- RS1/2 WR Cyflwyniad i Grefyddau'r Gorllewin (naill ai Islam neu Iddewiaeth)

Ar gyfer A2 bydd angen i ymgeiswyr ddewis o'r opsiynau canlynol:

- RS3 CS Astudio Crefydd yn y Gymdeithas Cyfoes
- RS3 ETH Astudio Crefydd a Moeseg
- RS3 PHIL Astudio Athroniaeth Crefydd
- RS3 BS Astudio Astudiaethau Beiblaidd (naill ai Hen Destament neu'r Testament Newydd)
- RS3 CHR Astudio Cristnogaeth
- RS3 ER Astudio Crefyddau'r Dwyrain (naill ai Bwdhaeth neu Hindŵaeth neu Sikhaeth)
- RS3 WR Astudiaethau ar grefyddau'r Gorllewin (naill ai Islam neu Iddewiaeth)

Yn ychwanegol at uned o RS3 bydd angen i ymgeiswyr hefyd astudio Astudiaethau Crefyddol Uned 4:

- RS4 HE Crefydd a'r Profiad Dynol
- Bydd angen i ymgeiswyr ysgrifennu traethawd dan amodau rheoledig ar agwedd benodol o'r canlynol:

  NAILL AI Awdurdod Crefyddol
  NEU Brofiad Crefyddol
  NEU Fywyd, Marwolaeth a Bywyd ar ôl Marwolaeth

Rhoddir prawf ar synoptigiaeth yn uned 3 ac uned 4. Yn uned 3 ni ddisgwylir i ymgeiswyr lunio cyswllt â deunydd a ddysgwyd ar gyfer unedau eraill, ar wahân, efallai i'r uned UG gyfatebol. Nid enillant

- Candidates answer one structured question out of a choice of three
- 1¾ hour written paper
- 25% of total A-level 75 marks (100 UMS)

ASSESSMENT TIMETABLE

Availability of Assessment Units

Unit	January 2009	June 2009	January 2010 and each subsequent year	June 2010 and each subsequent year
RS1	✓	✓	✓	✓
RS2	✓	✓	✓	✓
RS3			✓	✓
RS4			✓	✓

CONTENT OVERVIEW

All restrictions have now been removed from optional units in RS1, RS2 and RS3. Centres will be able to choose any **two** of the following options at AS:

- RS1/2 CS Introduction to Religion in Contemporary Society
- RS1/2 ETH Introduction to Religion and Ethics
- RS1/2 PHIL Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
- RS1/2 BS Introduction to Biblical Studies (either Old Testament or New Testament)
- RS1/2 CHR Introduction to Christianity
- RS1/2 ER Introduction to Eastern Religions (either Buddhism or Hinduism or Sikhism)
- RS1/2 WR Introduction to Western Religions (either Islam or Judaism)

At A2 candidates will have to choose from one of the following options:

- RS3 CS Studies in Religion in Contemporary Society
- RS3 ETH Studies in Religion and Ethics
- RS3 PHIL Studies in Philosophy and Religion
- RS3 BS Studies in Biblical Studies (either Old Testament or New Testament)
- RS3 CHR Studies in Christianity
- RS3 ER Studies in Eastern Religions (either Buddhism or Hinduism or Sikhism)
- RS3 WR Studies in Western Religions (either Islam or Judaism)

In addition to a unit from RS3, candidates will also be required to study Religious Studies Unit 4:

- RS4 HE Religion and Human Experience
- Candidates will be required to write an essay under controlled conditions on a specified aspect of:

  EITHER Religious Authority
  OR Religious Experience
  OR Life, Death and Life after Death

Synopticity is tested in both Unit 3 and Unit 4. In Unit 3 it is not expected that candidates will make any links with material learned in other units, except perhaps the corresponding AS unit. They will not

unrhyw farciau wrth wneud hynny oni bai bod yr hyn a ysgrifennir yn berthnasol ac addas i gyd-destun y cwestiwn dan sylw yn y papur arholiad. Dylent allu gweld y cysylltiadau rhwng y pedwar pwnc a bennir ar gyfer yr uned gan arddangos dealltwriaeth o'r uned fel cyfanwaith. Bellach, nid oes angen croes-gyfeirio penodol at unedau eraill, ond bydd ehangder y pynciau'n addas ar gyfer synoptigiaeth. Yma, disgwylir i ymgeiswyr gasglu ynghyd wybodaeth, dealltwriaeth a sgiliau a ddysgwyd ar gyfer y tair uned arall gan ychwanegu atynt y pethau newydd a ddysgasant ar gyfer Uned 4.

At bwrpas asesu, nid yw'r elfen synoptig wedi ei gwahanu oddi wrth agweddau eraill sydd i'w hasesu mewn atebion. Un elfen ymhlith llawer ydyw, o fewn pob un o'r disgrifyddion lefel ar gyfer Unedau 3 a 4 ar ben uchaf y raddfa. Wrth wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn â marciau bydd arholwyr yn ystyried yr ateb yn ei gyfanrwydd cyn pennu'r disgrifyddiad sy'n adlewyrchu orau ansawdd y gwaith. Bydd y meini prawf yn cynnwys nifer o elfennau: ffocws, trylwyredd, cywirdeb, amrywiaeth, defnyddio tystiolaeth, ansawdd cyfathrebu ysgrifenedig, er enghraifft, ynghyd â'r agweddau synoptig. Nid yw'r un o'r rhain ar eu pennau eu hunain yn debygol o wneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol i'r marc terfynol; y cyfuniad ohonynt sy'n pennu'r lefel; ar eu pennau eu hunain maent yn adlewyrchu'n fwy manwl y marc o fewn y lefel. Yn Uned 4, hyd yn oed, nid yw'r synoptig yn bwysicach na'r meini prawf eraill.

Daeth Tudor Thomas â'r drafodaeth i ben trwy gyflwyno rhagflas o'r fanyleb newydd gan amlinellu cynnwys yr uned UG Cyflwyniad i Grefydd yn y Gymdeithas Gyfoes. Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad newydd ac arloesol ac yn un a groesewir gan lawer o ysgolion newydd.

RS1/2CS: Cyflwyniad i Grefydd yn y Gymdeithas Gyfoes

- Materion Meddygol a Amgylcheddol – ewthanasia a hawliau anifeiliaid
- Crefydd a Theledu: sut mae themâu crefyddol yn cael eu portreadu trwy gyfrwng y teledu – crefydd mewn operâu sebon, Y Simpsons, a darllediadau crefyddol penodol.
- Crefydd a'r Gymdeithas – seciwlareiddio ac ymatebion ffwndamentalaidd neu Fudiadau Crefyddol Newydd
- Crefydd a'r Unigolyn – Theorïau ar grefydd Freud a Jung

Bydd y fanyleb newydd yn cael ei chyfnerthu'n llawn trwy gyfrwng deunyddiau enghreifftiol a chefnogaeth 'ar-lein' gan y swyddog pwnc a'r uwch-arholwyr.

gain any credit for doing so unless what they write is relevant and appropriate to the question in the immediate context of that examination paper. They should be able to see the links between the four topics specified in the unit and demonstrate a holistic grasp of the unit. Unit 4 no longer requires explicit cross-referencing to other units, but the broadness of the topics lends itself to synopticity. Here it is expected that candidates will try to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills learned in the other three units and add to them the new things they learn in Unit 4.

For assessment purposes the synoptic element is not separated out from other features of an answer that have to be assessed. It is one element among many in each of the level descriptors for Units 3 and 4 at the upper end of the scale. Synoptic is not mentioned at the lower levels because it is unlikely to be found in low-level answers. In making decisions about marks examiners view the answer as a whole and then look for the descriptor which best fits the quality of the work. The criteria include many elements: focus, thoroughness, accuracy, diversity, use of evidence, quality of written communication, for example, as well as the synoptic aspects. None of these on its own is likely to make a huge difference to the end mark: collectively they determine the level; individually they refine the mark within the level. Even in Unit 4, synoptic is not more important than the other criteria.

Tudor Thomas finished by giving a flavour of the new specification by introducing the new outline of the AS Introduction to Religion and Contemporary Society. This is a new innovative development which will be welcomed by many new schools.

RS1/2 CS: Introduction to Religion in Contemporary Society

- Medical and Environmental Issues – euthanasia and animal rights.
- Religion and TV: how religious themes are portrayed through television – religion in the soap operas, The Simpsons, and religious specific broadcasting.
- Religion and Community – secularisation and responses of fundamentalism or NRM's
- Religion and the Individual – Freud and Jung's theories of religion

The new specification will be fully supported by specimen exemplar materials and 'on-line' support from the subject officer and senior examiners.

Gall CYSAGau sy'n aelodau o Gymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru atgynhyrchu y mewnosodiad at eu defnydd eu hunain

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