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From: AQA ReligiousStudies [religiousstudies@aqa.org.uk]
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Subject: GCE Religious Studies: Extended Project Qualification
Attachments: Extended Project Qualification in template.pdf

Message sent on behalf of Deborah Garnett

Hello Everyone

I am delighted to attach, for your consideration, a guide to the Extended Project in Religious Studies. This document contains titles that may give your students some ideas of topics that they would like to research. I very much hope that you will forward to me the titles that your students use in the Extended Project and I will be only too happy to publish them in this Guide.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Deborah

Deborah Garnett
Senior Subject Officer for Religious Studies and Classics

<<Extended Project Qualification in template.pdf>>

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Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Extended Project Qualification



The Extended Project

The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification to be introduced from September 2008. It will be available to all Level 3 learners, from GCE to modern apprenticeships, and is a compulsory part of the new diplomas.

Students have to:

- choose a topic to study
- complete a production log to document the project process
- plan, research and carry out their project
- prepare a presentation on the outcome.

The Extended Project at Level 3 offers opportunities for learners to:

- have a significant input into the choice and design of an extended project and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision making and, where appropriate, problem solving skills
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- develop, where appropriate, as confident learners and apply new technologies in their studies
- develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for higher education and career development.

The new Level 3 Extended Project gives students more control over their studies than ever before. Candidates can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject they're studying, or another subject, or simply choose a topic that they have a personal interest in. The finished project can be a written report, a performance, a piece of art, a community project, a CD or DVD, or even computer software.

This level of choice and flexibility means students are engaged and motivated, and gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

The Assessment Objectives

<p>AO1 – Manage Identify, design, plan, and complete the individual project, or task within a group project, applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives.</p>
<p>AO2 – Use Resources / Research Obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of their topic.</p>
<p>AO3 – Develop and Realise Select and use a range of skills, including new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve planned outcomes.</p>
<p>AO4 – Review Evaluate outcomes including own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to convey and present evidenced outcomes and conclusions.</p>

The Extended Project in Religious Studies

The Extended Project can be used to give students of Religious Studies the opportunities previously afforded by coursework. Students can choose to research an aspect of one of the topics they are studying or to focus on something completely different. Many of the suggested areas given below are cross-curricular and involve students looking at the development through time of a topic or theme that interests them.

Religion and Literature

Students may use the Extended Project to research and evaluate the role and impact of comedy, satire or fiction in and on religion. This type of project is likely to appeal to candidates who are also studying English Literature and / or drama. Drama students may also like to consider the staging of individual plays and may decide to put on a performance as part of their project.

Religion and History

An evaluation of the development of feminist theology or of the arguments over the role of women in the ordained ministry could be the starting point for students whose interests are more historical. Some students might like to focus on the lives and careers of significant individuals and on their contributions to history.

Religion and Art

Students whose interests are more artistic might look at the range of religious art, and its relevance for religion today.

Religion and Music

A study of the way that religious texts have been set to music, e.g. in selected classical oratorios, requiems, mass settings and / or in modern religious musicals. How far does the music enhance or diminish the significance of the text?

Religion and Science

An exploration of a key issue of debate in the relationship between religion and science, e.g. the possibilities and limitations of scientific and theological methods of enquiry; creationism and evolutionary theory; psychological and religious explanations of human experience; how much of the biblical world view is still relevant in an age of science?

Titles used in the Pilot Scheme

Some schools and colleges have already taken part in a pilot of the Extended Project Qualification. The following titles, which were all submitted by students of A Level Religious Studies as part of the pilot, may give your students some ideas of topics they would like to research.

- How accurate is the media's representation of extremist Islam?
- Is it feasible to use the concept of personal identity to substantiate the existence of a Christian afterlife?
- Is religion still the opiate of the masses?

Additional Titles for Consideration

- In a century dominated by materialist philosophies, is belief in the soul still rational?
- How accurate was Nietzsche's assessment of Christianity?
- Consider the view that Judaism is no longer relevant to modern Christianity.
- Evaluate the view that the concept of personal identity must now be abandoned in favour of psychological continuity.
- To what extent can the biblical presentation of Jesus be seen as another version of the myth of the dying and rising God?
- Assess the view that religious approaches to environmental ethics are worse than useless.
- Do near-death experiences have anything to do with religion?
- Assess Marx's contribution to the development of Christian theology.
- Is it possible to arrive at a non-gendered interpretation of biblical texts?
- Can the concept of God be properly separated from religious theories about the nature of humans?
- How far would it be desirable to have a religious future based on a syncretised world religion?
- To what extent does quantum mechanics support a religious view of the nature of the universe?
- What truth is there in Bertrand Russell's claim that philosophy shows religious beliefs to be intellectually disreputable.
- Consider the view that reason is incompatible with religious belief.
- Assess the view that Christianity should abandon the Creeds of Nicea and Chalcedon in favour of a form of belief more fitting to the 21st century.
- Consider the view that any form of belief is religious as long as it is held with sufficient intensity and commitment.
- Evaluate the claim that orthopraxy is more important than religious belief.
- Is religion merely a product of the society in which it finds itself?
- Evaluate the claim that if a religion is to be true to itself it must act as a subversive element within society.
- What difficulties arise from believing both in an omniscient God and in the value of moral behaviour?
- Do philosophical ideas about God conflict with religious ideas about God?

Find out more

For further information about the Extended Project Qualification visit our website www.aqa.org.uk or email epq@aqa.org.uk