ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

INTRODUCTION

The public assessment of this subject is based on the Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4–6) Ethics and Religious Studies jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates have to refer to the Guide for the knowledge and understanding and skills they are required to demonstrate in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

To assess candidates’ ability to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different areas of ethics and a selected religious tradition;¹
2. Apply such knowledge and understanding to real life situations as well as novel cases;
3. Perform critical thinking skills (including: analysis, evaluation, synthesis…… ) with reference to relevant ethical / religious concepts and theories;
4. Communicate effectively (including: facts, opinions, suggestions and standpoints……).

Mode of Assessment

The following table outlines the various components of the public assessment of ERS in 2012 HKDSE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Examination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1: Ethics</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1 hour 45 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Religious Traditions</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1 hour 45 min</td>
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Public Examination

Paper 1: Ethics

Part A: Normative Ethics (20 marks)

Four to five short questions will be set. All questions are compulsory.

Part B: Personal and Social Issues (40 marks)

There will be four questions, of which candidates are required to answer two. The paper will consist of essay and guided essay questions.

Paper 2: Religious Traditions

Candidates are to attempt one of the two modules offered. The paper will consist of essay and guided essay questions.

¹ Please refer to the Curriculum and Assessment Guide for specific assessment objectives of different parts.

2012-HKDSE-ERS
Module 1: Buddhism (No open-book arrangement)

Each question carries 20 marks and candidates should attempt a total of three questions from Part 1 and Part 2.

Part 1: History of Buddhism

There will be two questions, of which candidates are required to answer one.

Part 2: Doctrines of Buddhism and Buddhist Practice

There will be four questions, of which candidates are required to answer two.

Module 2: Christianity [Candidates may bring approved Bible(s) into the examination centres.] (see Annex I)

There will be five questions, of which candidates are required to answer three. Each question carries 20 marks.

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT (SBA)

SBA will be implemented starting from the 2014 HKDSE.

Faiths in Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SBA Tasks/ components</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Task One:</strong> Proposal for the SBA activities</td>
<td>Candidates should submit proposals on the visit/service, including the following: 1. The background information of the relevant organization or information related to the service / religious ritual. 2. A plan for the visit/service including: (i) formulation of personal learning objectives for the visit/service and its rationale. (ii) identification of the training and the prior knowledge that are needed to facilitate the undertaking of the SBA activities. (iii) a brief action plan.</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Task Two:</strong> Report on the SBA activities</td>
<td>Candidates should submit reports on the visit/service, including the following: 1. A brief report on the process of the visit/service. 2. An evaluation on whether the personal learning objectives have been achieved and the action plan has been satisfactorily carried out. 3. A meaningful discussion on the experience gained in the whole SBA activity. Where appropriate, references to relevant ethical and religious themes should be elaborated. 4. An exploration of possible effects on the candidate’s morality, spirituality, cultural development and human relationships from this visit/service.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Overall Teachers’ assessment of the overall performance during the whole process, including the following:
- Initiative
- Cooperation with others
- Ability to communicate
- Ability to work independently

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year of examination</th>
<th>Implementation of SBA</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012 &amp; 2013</td>
<td>Schools are not required to submit SBA marks. Public examination results constitute 100% of the final subject result.</td>
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</table>

Starting from 2014, all schools have to submit SBA marks, which will contribute 20% to the final subject results.

The detailed requirements, regulations and guidelines will be provided in the SBA Handbook (Trial Version) for HKDSE Ethics and Religious Studies to be published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. During the transition years, the curriculum for ERS will remain intact and schools will be expected to conduct the SBA activities as an integral part of learning and teaching and internal assessment as recommended in the Curriculum and Assessment Guide. In the light of feedback from schools during the transition years, a finalized version of the Handbook will be published when the SBA is implemented.
ANNEX I

Open-book examination arrangement is adopted in Paper 2, Christianity. Please note:

1. Candidates should bring into the examination centre a copy of one of the approved versions of the whole Bible. The approved versions are listed below in paragraph 6.
2. Candidates, who wish to do so, may bring in two Bibles (or New Testaments) in order to have different language versions or translations.
3. The use of textbooks, commentaries or other reference books will not be permitted during the examination.
4. Apart from the particulars of the owner (e.g. name, class, address), the books used MUST NOT have been written in, although candidates may underline the text. They may also use highlighters to enhance some verses. Infringements of these regulations normally incur penalties or disqualification.
5. During the examination, invigilators may examine all copies of the Bible which candidates have brought into the centre. If any unauthorized material is found candidates will be allowed to continue but once the examination is over, the books/material concerned will have to be handed to the centre supervisor for inspection. It will later be decided whether the regulations have been broken and whether the candidate should be disqualified or suffer some other penalty.
6. The approved versions of the Bible are as follows:
   - Good News Bible/Today’s English Version/Good News for Modern
   - Man (N.T.)/Good News Bible (illustrated)
   - Good News Bible with Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha
   - Sunrise Good News Bible
   - Revised Standard Version
   - New Revised Standard Version
   - The Jerusalem Bible
   - The New Jerusalem Bible
   - The Knox Version
   - New American Standard Version
   - New International Version
   - Gideons International bilingual edition of the New Testament
   - Modern Chinese Version
   - Modern Chinese Version (Kuoyu and Revised Version)

Notes:
1. Booklets containing individual books from the Bible in the versions mentioned above are acceptable, as are bilingual combinations of these versions.

If schools wish to use versions that are not listed, they should write to seek permission from:
   - The Secretary General
   - (Attention: HSEAD)
   - Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
   - Southorn Centre, 12/F
   - 130 Hennessy Road

2012-HKDSE-ERS
Wanchai
Hong Kong
before 1st September in the year preceding the examination. Private candidates may also seek such permission, and should do so in writing by the same date.

2. * The underlying rational for the inclusion of Bible versions in the approved list is that they are in common use in Hong Kong schools.

* The use of unapproved versions will incur mark penalties.

* The use of versions which are study Bibles, or which contain unauthorised material such as commentaries or handwritten study notes will lead to disqualification from the subject.