

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 Ethics and Religious Studies (ERS) in 2026 HKDSE.

Component		Weighting	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1: Ethics	50%	1 hour 45 minutes
	Paper 2: Religious Traditions	50%	1 hour 45 minutes

Note: Schools wishing to present candidates for Paper 2 Module 1 Buddhism (English version) should make a written request to the Secretary General two school years prior to the year of the examination i.e. for the 2026 examination, such requests should reach the Secretary General of the Authority by 1st September 2024.

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

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.

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.

ANNEX I

Open-book examination arrangement is only adopted in Module 2 Christianity. Please note the following:

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 two copies of the New Testament) 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), there must be NO writing in the books. Attachments (e.g. labels and stickers) must NOT be added to the Bibles. Candidates are ONLY allowed to:
 - (i) underline the texts in the Bible
 - (ii) 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 unauthorised 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
 - New American Standard Version
 - New International Version
 - English Standard Version
 - 現代中文譯本／給現代學生的佳音／給現代人的福音（新約）／現代人的希望／現代中文譯本修訂版
 - 聖經（思高聖經學會譯釋）
 - 聖經（思高聖經學會譯釋）(修訂版)(即：橫排版)
 - 新約全書（思高聖經學會譯釋）
 - 新舊約全書（和合版／和合本）
 - 聖經（和合本修訂版）

中文聖經新譯本（樂可門基金）／聖經新譯本——學生版（初版／第三版）（環球聖經公會）
聖經（新標點和合本）
聖經（新普及譯本）

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: Head - School Examinations and Assessment Division)
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
Southorn Centre, 12/F
130 Hennessy Road
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 rationale 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.