

Route map through learning, teaching and assessment

Course: Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Level: Higher

This route map is intended to assist staff in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence. It has been developed to signpost the relevant support materials available to assist staff in the planning of learning, teaching and assessment of Higher RMPS.

The vision for the new qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

Education Scotland has published support materials to help staff develop programmes of learning drawn from three sources: course materials commissioned by Education Scotland, other support materials produced by staff seconded to Education Scotland and course materials provided by staff through their education authorities. Further materials will be added as they become available.

These support materials are not intended to constrain staff, hence they are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. They provide suggestions on approaches to learning and teaching that will promote development of the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills for Higher RMPS. Staff are encouraged to draw on these materials, and existing materials, to develop their own programmes of learning which are appropriate to the needs of learners within their own context.

The link to Education Scotland's support materials can be found below together with a number of other subject-specific links you may find helpful as you develop **programmes of learning** for Higher RMPS. These links are followed by a sequential list of the key guidelines, advice and support for the Higher RMPS **qualification**. This information is intended to support staff in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess learners.

Useful links for learning and teaching Higher RMPS:

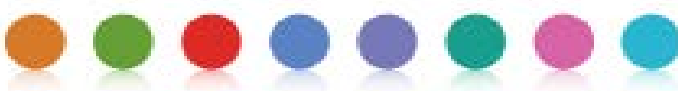
Education Scotland NQ Course Materials on Glow (login and password required)

A wide range of learning and teaching resources to help staff develop programmes of learning.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/h/nqresource_tcm4819373.asp (copy and paste this link into your browser).

SQA course and unit support notes providing advice and guidance on learning and teaching

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf



National Assessment Resource on Glow (login and password required)

Materials that inform planning for learning, teaching, moderation and assessment.

<https://www.narscotland.org.uk/>

Key Curriculum for Excellence support

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence under the following headings:

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

BBC Knowledge and Learning

The BBC has pulled together all its learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site, which includes Class Clips.

www.bbc.co.uk/education

BBC Bitesize

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for Higher.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z782fq8>

RMPS Higher course content

The main SQA RMPS page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45631.html>, with pages specifically related to Higher at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47911.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpecification_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralandPhilosophicalStudies.pdf

There are three units: World Religion, Morality and Belief and Religious and Philosophical Questions.

Outcomes for each unit can be found in the unit specification for each unit.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47911.html>

If the units are undertaken as part of the RMPS Higher course then learners must cover the mandatory content in order to be prepared for the question paper element of the course assessment. Details of the mandatory content can be found in the 'Further mandatory information on course coverage' section of the course assessment specification.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf

A course comparison, comparing Higher to National 5 is also available:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/H_RMPS_Course_comparison.pdf

Course assessment

At Higher added value will be assessed in a course assessment, which consists of a question paper and an assignment. The course will be graded A–D.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf

Question paper

There will be a question paper of 2 hours and 15 minutes for Higher RMPS worth 60 marks, which will be carried out under exam conditions and marked by SQA. It will test application of skills and breadth of knowledge and understanding across the course. There will be three sections: World Religion (20 marks), Morality and Belief (20 marks), and Religious and Philosophical Questions (20 marks). In each section, learners will answer on the option they have studied.

A specimen question paper and marking scheme is available at:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ReligiousMoralandPhilosophicalStudiesSQPH.pdf.

Assignment

The assignment is worth 30 marks out of a total of 90 marks for the course and thus contributes approximately 33% of the overall marks for the course assessment. The assignment is a new component of the course assessment, in which learners will demonstrate challenge and application by demonstrating skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a religious, moral or philosophical question or issue. Learners will have a free choice of topic or issue. Research will be undertaken in the classroom and at home. The production of evidence stage will be completed under controlled conditions in 1 hour and 30 minutes. Learners will be able to take a resource sheet, containing notes on evidence and references, into the assessment.

Further guidance on assessment conditions can be found at:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoHigherRMPS.pdf.

Staff will need to be familiar with the guidance contained on the SQA Secure website.

https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies

Unit assessment

When undertaken as part of the RMPS Higher course the units and the specified unit content are mandatory. Units can also be undertaken independently, in which case the outcomes and assessment standards as described in the unit specifications must be met.

World Religion

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_H_RMPS_WorldReligion.pdf

Morality and Belief

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_H_RMPS_MoralityandBelief.pdf

Religious and Philosophical Questions

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_H_RMPS_ReligiousandPhilosophicalQuestions.pdf

Further guidance on each unit can also be found in the unit support notes within the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_Higher_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf

Evidence that learners have met the outcomes and assessment standards may be generated through a wide variety of learning activities. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. The evidence may be compiled from a number of activities carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Evidence should be assessed using the judging the evidence criteria in the unit assessment support packs.

https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies

(Note: This link goes to an SQA Secure website page and will need to be accessed by your centre's SQA co-ordinator.)

The unit assessment support packs outline three different possible ways of gathering assessment evidence: unit-by-unit, combined and portfolio.

Verification

The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools and is carried out by SQA.

Information on quality assurance is available at: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

Prior verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

Internal verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

As a matter of course staff should be internally verifying their assessments by carrying out the types of activities they have used previously. For example a sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school.



External verification

In RMPS, schools will submit a sample of evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website. In preparing verification procedures for RMPS Higher in 2014–15, it may be helpful to consider the key messages from verification in 2013–2014, which can be found under the verification tab on the RMPS National 5 page: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47421.html>.

Results services

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

SQA offer two services to replace the appeals process:

- Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (details to be provided to SQA within ten days of the learner sitting the external assessment)
- Post-results Service – this consists of a clerical check and/or a marking review if the centre has concerns about the results of an individual or group.