

Route map through learning, teaching and assessment

Course: Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies (RMPS) Level: Advanced 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 Advanced 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.

These support materials are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. They provide suggestions on approaches to learning and teaching that will provide intellectual challenge to learners either in a formal learning environment or through independent learning. Learners will have the opportunity to develop deep learning and acquire high-level skills such as research, analysis and critical reflection through the medium of Advanced Higher RMPS. Staff are encouraged to draw on these materials, and existing materials, to develop 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 other subject-specific links you may find helpful as you develop **programmes of learning** for Advanced Higher RMPS. These links are followed by a sequential list of the key guidelines, advice and support for Advanced Higher RMPS **qualifications**. 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 Advanced Higher RMPS

Education Scotland NQ Course Materials on Glow (login and password required). Copy and paste the link into the browser to go straight to this page:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/r/nqresource_tcm4851480.asp

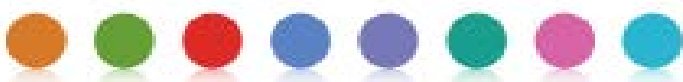
Education Scotland – Key Curriculum Support

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

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

This appears under three headings

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



SQA Course and Unit Support Notes

These provide advice and guidance on learning and teaching

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

Advanced Higher RMPS course content

The main SQA RMPS pages are found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/66767.html> with those specifically related to Advanced Higher at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48457.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/nq/AHCourseSpecRMPS.pdf>

There are TWO mandatory units:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Researching Religious, Moral and Philosophical Issues

Learners must then study ONE of the following two optional units

- Religious Experience
- Medical Ethics

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

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

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on pages 8-9 of the Course Assessment Specification.

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

A course comparison between National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher highlights **points of change and areas of stability** can be found at:

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

Course assessment

At Advanced Higher, Course assessment consists of:

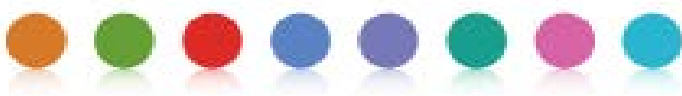
Component 1 — question paper 60 marks

Component 2 — project: dissertation 40 marks

Total marks 100 marks

The course will be graded A–D.

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



Question Paper:

The question paper will have 60 marks. The question paper has THREE Sections.

All learners should complete the **mandatory** Section A, then Section B **OR** Section C.

- ◆ Section A: Philosophy of Religion will have 30 marks
- ◆ Section B: Religious Experience will have 30 marks
- ◆ Section C: Medical Ethics will have 30 marks

Each Section will be made up of two extended response questions from which learners will choose to answer one.

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 2 hours.

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA

Project: Dissertation

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate challenge and application by demonstrating skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a project on a complex religious, moral or philosophical issue.

The project: dissertation will give learners an opportunity to undertake independent research in order to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ identifying an appropriate complex religious, moral or philosophical issue for research
- ◆ using a wide range of sources of information
- ◆ drawing on in-depth knowledge and understanding
- ◆ explaining, analysing and critically evaluating arguments and evidence
- ◆ synthesising information
- ◆ structuring and sustaining a detailed, well-informed and well-reasoned conclusion on the issue, expressed with clarity
- ◆ organising, presenting and referencing findings using appropriate conventions

The project: dissertation will have 40 marks.

The project: dissertation will be set by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under some supervision and control. Evidence for assessment will be produced independently by the learner in time to meet a submission date set by SQA.

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

A specimen question paper and marking instructions can be found at:

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

Guidance on the use of past paper questions can be found at:

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



Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Advanced Higher RMPS course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.

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

Each individual unit also has an Advanced Higher unit specification.

RMPS: Philosophy of Religion: ONE outcome with five sub-divisions

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitPhilosophyofReligion.pdf>

RMPS: Religious Experience: ONE outcome with five-sub-divisions

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitReligiousExperience.pdf>

RMPS: Medical Ethics: ONE outcome with five-sub-divisions

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitMedicalEthics.pdf>

RMPS: Researching Religious, Moral and Philosophical Issues: ONE outcome with five-sub-divisions

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitResearchingRMPIssues.pdf>

Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully. Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching.

Evidence is required to show that the learner has met the Outcomes and Assessment Standards. Learners are required to demonstrate the skills in each of the Assessment Standards and teachers/lecturers must gather evidence of the attainment of these skills in appropriate ways. The evidence does not need to come from a single activity, but can be assembled from a variety of tasks and assessments carried out during the Course.

Three different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA. The most traditional approach is unit by unit. A combined approach links knowledge and understanding from two or more units together. Many staff will move towards the portfolio approach as their confidence grows. Here evidence is gathered from everyday learning using key classroom tasks. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website.

Verification

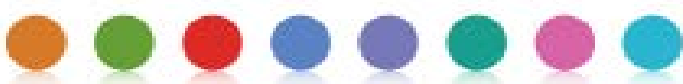
The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous. Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools and carried out by SQA.

Quality Assurance: <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 by SQA. It gives staff 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 quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have used previously, for example double marking and blind marking. Samples of a learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department or in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another centre.

External Verification

In RMPS, schools will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intends that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place at various points in the year. 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.

Results Services

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

SQA offers two services:

- 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.

