Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination: Religion and Life

| Year | Number who sat | Number of absentees |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2016 | 1995 | 23 |

## Examination score distribution



## Summary

The examination consisted of three sections with candidates being required to attempt all questions in Sections One and Two and to choose one of the two questions available in Section Three. The spread of marks ranged from $3.88 \%$ to $91.75 \%$ and the standard deviation was $11.16 \%$.

Attempted by 1995 candidates
Section means were:
Section One: Source analysis
Section Two: Short answer
Section Three: Essay

Mean 54.60\%(/100) Max 91.75\% Min 3.88\%

| Mean 22.96(/40) | Max 37.27 | Min 1.80 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mean 15.27(/30) | Max 28.08 | Min 0.38 |
| Mean 16.52(/30) | Max 30.00 | Min 1.20 |

## General comments

Overall, candidates performed quite well with a pleasing number of sophisticated responses provided for some questions. Stronger candidates were able to construct answers that went beyond the simple regurgitation of facts. By comparison, it was evident that some candidates had prepared default answers that did not address the specific requirements of particular questions.

## Advice for candidates

- Read questions closely and ensure you address the requirements of questions.
- Develop the skill of formulating well-constructed logical responses to a variety of questions and providing detailed support for your response where required.
- Resist the temptation to include superfluous information in responses.


## Advice for teachers

- Ensure that students are familiar with all aspects of the course syllabus and that they understand the linkage between content taught and the context for that content.
- Students need to be explicitly taught how to construct responses for a range of higher-order verb demands in questions such as 'evaluate', 'analyse' and 'examine'.


## Comments on specific sections and questions

## Section One: Source analysis

Attempted by 1995 candidates
Mean 22.96(/40) Max $37.27 \quad$ Min 1.82
While some candidates excelled in this section many displayed superficial treatment of the sources. It was evident from the responses of candidates that there continues to be a need for the development of analytical skills and critical thinking.

## Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 1992 candidates Mean 15.27(/30) Max 28.08 Min 0.38 Overall, candidates performed reasonably well on this section of the examination except for part (b) of Question 4 where candidates struggled with the concept of inquiry.

## Section Three: Essay

Attempted by 1980 candidates Mean 16.52(/30) Max $30.00 \quad$ Min 1.20
Overall, most candidates were able to construct an essay that included an introduction, basic paragraphs and a conclusion. Understanding of key concepts varied greatly though.

