



Religion and Life General Course Year 12

Selected Unit 3 syllabus content for the

Externally set task 2026

This document is an extract from the *Religion and Life General Course Year 12 syllabus*, featuring all of the content for Unit 3. The content that has been highlighted in the document is the content on which the Externally set task (EST) for 2026 will be based.

All students enrolled in the course are required to complete an EST. The EST is an assessment task which is set by the Authority and distributed to schools for administering to students. The EST will be administered in schools during Term 2, 2026 under standard test conditions. The EST will take 50 minutes.

The EST will be marked by teachers in each school using a marking key provided by the Authority. The EST is included in the assessment table in the syllabus as a separate assessment type with a weighting of 15% for the pair of units.

Unit 3

Unit description

The focus of this unit is the role religion plays in the lives of people. It explores how people interact with and respond to religion. Students conduct research and consolidate the skills required for processing information and communicating findings about religion and life.

Unit content

An understanding of the Year 11 content is assumed knowledge for students in Year 12. It is recommended that students studying Unit 3 and Unit 4 have completed Unit 1 and Unit 2.

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below.

The nature of religion

The search for meaning

- the relationship between important life events and the search for meaning and purpose
- different ways people choose to follow a religious way of life

Religious belief, teaching and practice

- how a religious belief or teaching can play a role in the lives of people and/or society
- an overview of a religion's structure and/or leadership

The influence of religion

The place of religion in society

- how individuals or groups respond to the presence of religion in a society

Religion in historical contexts

- an overview of an important event or issue in the history of a religion

Current issues for religion

- the key features of a current issue in society to which a religion seeks to respond
- the response of a religion to a current issue in society

Religious inquiry and learning skills

Terms and concepts

- use correct religious terms and concepts

Research

- develop and follow a research plan when conducting an inquiry
- identify, locate and organise relevant information from relevant sources
- practise ethical scholarship when conducting research

Analysis and use of sources

- identify the origin, purpose and context of particular sources
- identify different points of view
- identify and use evidence from different types of sources to support a point of view
- evaluate the usefulness of different sources

Explanation and communication

- develop texts that accurately use evidence to explain, support or refute arguments
- communicate ideas or understandings suitable for a set purpose and audience
- use basic referencing techniques accurately and consistently