



RELIGION AND LIFE

ATAR course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The Religion and Life ATAR course explores the relationship between religion, society and individuals. It provides students with opportunities to critically examine one or more religions to develop a deeper understanding of the nature and influence of religion and the role it plays in shaping human experience.

In this course, students can expect to study one or more religions, focusing on their beliefs and practices. They will explore the characteristics of religion, their origins, foundations, social influence and development over time whilst critically analysing the role religion has in society. By studying the course, students gain insight into the challenges and opportunities religions face in modern society.

Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills by engaging with diverse perspectives, enabling them to evaluate religious traditions within broader social and historical contexts. They refine their ability to interpret and assess primary and secondary sources in order to foster an educated and reflective approach to understanding religion's role in contemporary life.

By studying the course, students will acquire the knowledge and skills which will empower them to navigate and contribute to discussions on ethical, social and cultural issues influenced by religion. Understanding the interplay between religion and life enhances students' ability to engage meaningfully in an increasingly diverse and pluralistic society.

The study of the Religion and Life ATAR course is valuable for careers in theology, sociology, anthropology and international relations, as well as careers requiring cultural awareness and ethical reasoning.

Aims

The Religion and Life ATAR course aims to develop students' ability to:

- understand the nature of religion and how people interact with religion
- understand the interplay between religion and society
- use religious inquiry skills to investigate, analyse, evaluate and communicate an informed and critical understanding of issues and ideas associated with the interplay between religion and life.