



# RELIGION AND LIFE

---

General 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.

## **Copyright**

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2025

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](#).

## Rationale

The Religion and Life General course provides students with opportunities to learn about religion and explores ways in which religion interacts with people and their communities.

In this course, students can expect to study one or more religions, exploring their characteristics, ways of life, foundation and development. Through the development and use of course skills, students examine the nature and influence of religion. They consider the role religion plays in human affairs and explore issues of concern to religion.

Students develop vital research skills and learn how to investigate a range of primary and secondary sources, enabling them to cultivate and communicate an informed understanding of the role religion plays in society. Additionally, students refine their ability to identify, discuss and reflect on different viewpoints about religion and its place in the lives of people and society.

The course develops the knowledge and skills necessary to enable students to engage thoughtfully with religious and cultural diversity within their communities. Students gain an understanding of how religion influences individuals and societies allowing them to participate in discussions on ethical and social issues with greater awareness and sensitivity.

The study of the Religion and Life General course is valuable for careers that require an understanding of cultural diversity, ethics and social engagement such as community development, teaching, journalism and advocacy.

## Aims

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

- understand the role religion plays in the lives of people
- understand the role religion plays in society
- use religious inquiry skills to investigate, analyse and communicate an informed understanding of issues and ideas associated with religion and life.