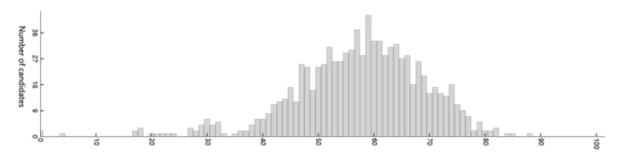Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Summary report of the 2023 ATAR course examination report:
Religion and Life

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2023	895	15
2022	994	10
2021	1068	12
2020	1159	16

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution

Summary

The examination consisted of three sections. Sections One and Two required candidates to complete all questions. In Section Three, candidates were expected to select one of two essay questions provided.

Attempted by 893 candidates   Mean 57.28%   Max 88.30%   Min 0.00%

Section means were:
Section One: Source analysis   Mean 62.12%
Attempted by 892 candidates   Mean 24.85(/40)   Max 35.60   Min 0.00
Section Two: Short answer   Mean 55.00%
Attempted by 893 candidates   Mean 16.50(/30)   Max 27.60   Min 0.00
Section Three: Essay   Mean 53.11%
Attempted by 875 candidates   Mean 15.93(/30)   Max 29.25   Min 0.00

General comments

The examination paper was effective in providing candidates with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge across all three sections of the paper. The paper allowed for a fair assessment of the ability of candidates with a good level of discrimination. Overall, the mean for the 2023 examination decreased slightly to 57.28% from 59.64% in 2022, and the range of scores remained similar.

Advice for candidates
- Take time to make certain that you understand what the question is asking for and ensure that all aspects/parts of the question are answered.
- Make use of the space in the Question/Answer booklet to produce an outline/plan for the essays.

- Ensure that you fully understand the meaning of the vocabulary used in the Religion and Life course. Terms such as 'context' and 'interplay' and vocabulary used in each question indicate the direction of the questions being asked, and so need to be clearly addressed in your responses.

Advice for teachers
- Prepare students not only for the course content specifically, but also for the questions that ask candidates to delve more deeply into their understanding, to interpret and to evaluate. These higher-order skills appear to be somewhat lacking and perhaps point to a need in the teaching/learning process.
- A deeper in-class focus on the course rationale, outlined in the introductory sections of the syllabus, provides an ideal opportunity to draw students into the deeper understanding of their learning and to form a nexus upon which specific outcomes could be understood.
- Encourage students to utilise the additional space at the end of the Question/Answer booklet and the availability of additional booklets to enable a detailed response to the deeper, more challenging questions, rather than limit their responses to the lines provided.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Source analysis (50 Marks)
The mean in Section One: Source analysis rose to 62.12% in 2023, up from 61.08% in 2022. Candidate performance in Section One was generally better than their performance in Sections Two and Three.

Section Two: Short answer (50 Marks)
Candidates performed reasonably well in Section Two (Short answer) with a mean of 55.00%. The mean score in 2023 was slightly lower than the mean score of 58.21% in 2022.

Section Three: Essay (20 Marks)
The mean in Section Three (Extended answer) was 53.11%. The mean score in 2023 was lower than the mean score of 59.14% in 2022. The mean scores for both questions were very similar. Approximately 71% of candidates completing this section chose to answer Question 7, with only 29% answering Question 8. This section provided candidates with the opportunity to utilise the full range of their learning in responding to questions drawn from the overall rationale of the Religion and Life course.