



Studies of Religion Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between 1 Unit and 2 Unit SOR?

1 Unit and 2 Unit Studies of Religion have three common units. In addition, 2 Unit Studies of Religion has an extra three units. The exams are double the time length (1.5 hours and 3 hours). 2 Unit has all lessons within the normal school timetable while 1 Unit may have some classes before school. Both 2U and 1U SOR have 3 assessment tasks each year (i.e. The number of assessment tasks is the same regardless of whether a student does 1U or 2U). The assessment tasks in 2U are longer and more demanding.

Is there a benefit in studying 1 Unit?

For some students, having a 1 Unit subject 'up their sleeve' can be a good strategy for the HSC. If a student were not to perform as well as they might hope in one of their 2 Unit subjects, but does well in 1 Unit Studies of Religion, the 50 marks from Studies of Religion can count in the place of half of their marks from the 2 Unit course, effectively improving their overall HSC mark.

Can I change between 1 Unit and 2 Unit?

A student could take 2 Unit SOR in Year 11 and drop to 1 Unit in Year 12. However, a student cannot start with 1 Unit in Year 11 and then pick up 2 Unit in Year 12.

How is the course structured?

1 Unit

Preliminary Course	Duration (indicative hours)
Nature of Religion and Beliefs Includes Aboriginal spiritualities	16
Religious tradition study 1: Islam Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
Religious Tradition Study 2: Christianity Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
Total	60

HSC Course	Duration (indicative hours)
Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945 Includes current religious trends, Aboriginal spiritualities	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 1: Islam A significant person, ethic and practice	22
Religious Tradition Depth Study 2: Christianity A significant person, ethic and practice	22
Total	60



2 Unit – ALL of the above PLUS

Preliminary Course	Duration (indicative hours)
Religion in Australia pre-1945 Includes the establishment development and contribution of religion in Australia pre-1945	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 3: Buddhism Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
Religions of Ancient Origin Study of two ancient religions – Nordic, Shinto	22
Total	60

HSC Course	Duration (indicative hours)
Religion and Non-Religion Exploring the human search for meaning through both religion and non-religion	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 3: Buddhism A significant person, ethic and practice	22
Religion and Peace How two different religions approach the issue of peace	22
Total	60

Is there a choice of religions to study?

The NESA syllabus provides specific religions and content which must be covered. Within the scope of the syllabus choices are made at the school level as to which religions will be explored. Those choices have been reflected in the unit tables above.

What does assessment look like?

We assess students in a variety of ways including written excursion reports, oral presentations, research essays and examinations.

The Year 11 end of year exam, the Trial Exam the HSC exam mirror each other. Each has 3 sections common to both 1 Unit and 2 Unit SOR:

- Section I – 10 multiple choice questions and one 5-mark short answer
- Section II – a series of short answer questions
- Section III – an essay

Examinations for 2 Unit Studies of Religion is double the length, following the same pattern as above for an extra three sections.

For the 2019 HSC papers – for 1 Unit [click here](#); for 2 Unit [click here](#)



How do you approach the study of religion?

We encourage our students to ask enquiring questions about the different world views we encounter and to develop the skills of critical analysis. We help our students to understand, with empathy, the beliefs and practices of other religions, seeking to see the world through the eyes of different people. Students develop the skill of communicating their ideas in creative ways and through different mediums. We encourage our students to personally respond to what they learn, allowing their understanding to shape the way they live and interact with others. As with all Barker subjects, we do this in the context of the Christian purpose of the school.

If you have other questions, please email the Head of Department, Mr. Tom Anderson at tanderson@barker.nsw.edu.au