

# VCE Texts and Traditions 2017–2021

## Written examination – End of year

### Examination specifications

#### Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

#### Content

The *VCE Texts and Traditions Study Design 2017–2021* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

#### Format

The examination will be in the form of a question book. Students will write their responses in a general answer book.

The examination will consist of four sections:

- Section A – The Gospel according to John
- Section B – The books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel
- Section C – The Gospel according to Luke
- Section D – The Qur'an

Students must answer questions from only **one** section.

Each section has three parts.

**Part 1** will consist of four extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts, worth 10 marks each. Questions may be drawn from any area of study in Units 3 and 4. Students will be required to respond to two questions from Questions 1 to 3. These questions may refer to extracts selected from anywhere in the set text, not just the passages for special study. Question 4 will be a question that is common across all sections. All students will be required to respond to this question. Part 1 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

**Part 2** will consist of three essay topics. Students must attempt **one** topic and produce an essay that develops ideas as either a discussion or explanation using examples from the set text, and relevant documentary sources and scholarship. Topics may be based on an entire set text and/or passages for special study, and may be theme-based. Part 2 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

**Part 3** will consist of one to three extracts from the passages for special study. Students will select **one** extract and produce an exegesis based on Unit 3, Area of study 1 and Unit 4, Area of study 2. The exegesis is expected to be at a Unit 4 standard. Students are required to comment on the meaning and significance of the words and phrases in bold type in the context of the extract. Part 3 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 90.

## Criteria

Part 2 will be assessed against the following criteria:

- discussion, understanding and/or interpretation of the idea, themes, literary aspects and/or individuals relevant to the topic
- management of the topic, using the various terms, concepts and parts of the topic to support an interpretation
- selection and use of textual detail and evidence relevant to the discussion and/or interpretation
- understanding of social, cultural, religious, political and historical influences, as appropriate, on the foundational text and/or their significance for the original community
- use of relevant documentary sources and scholarship, and scriptural and theological terminology, appropriate to the topic and textual references

Part 3 will be assessed against the following criteria:

- explanation of the sociocultural and/or historical contexts, as appropriate, and the literary context of the extract
- understanding of the literary forms and/or techniques (their purpose, effect and significance within the given extract)
- explanation of the major ideas and themes evident in the extract and discussion of their significance for the original community
- use of the words and/or phrases in bold type to inform exegetical discussion within the context of the extract
- overall use of exegetical methods, including use of appropriate terminology and scholarship

## Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

## Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Texts and Traditions examination:

- *VCE Texts and Traditions Study Design 2017–2021*
- *VCE Texts and Traditions – Advice for teachers 2017–2021* (includes assessment advice)
- VCE Texts and Traditions: Set texts, themes and passages for special study (published annually)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

## **Advice**

During the 2017–2021 accreditation period for VCE Texts and Traditions, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Examination questions may relate to one or more areas of study. The weighting of examination questions will reflect approximately the weighting of the outcomes in the study design.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the 'Texts and Traditions – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The sample examination has been developed using selected themes and passages for special study set in previous years.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.