

VCE Texts and Traditions 2023–2027

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.

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

The examination will be assessed 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 2023–2027* 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 key 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 books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel
- Section B – The Gospel according to Luke
- Section C – The Gospel according to John
- 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 extracts from the passages for special study. Students will select **one** extract and produce an exegesis based on Unit 3, Area of Study 3, and Unit 4, Area of Study 1. 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 2 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

Part 3 will consist of three essay topics. Students must attempt **one** topic and produce an essay that develops ideas as either a discussion or an 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 3 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 90.

Assessment criteria

Part 2 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 extract)
- explanation of the major ideas and themes evident in the extract and discussion of their significance for the original audience
- 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

Part 3 will be assessed against the following criteria:

- discussion, understanding and/or interpretation of the relevance of the purposes, themes, literary aspects and/or individuals to the original audience
- understanding of the ways in which the social, cultural, religious and political conditions and historical context influenced the formation of the set text and/or the set themes
- management of the topic, using various terms, concepts and parts of the topic to support a discussion and/or interpretation that is relevant to the topic
- selection and use of textual detail and evidence relevant to the discussion and/or interpretation of the topic
- use of relevant current scholarly opinion and theological terminology that are appropriate to the topic and the textual references used

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

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

- *VCE Texts and Traditions Study Design 2023–2027*
- Texts and Traditions – Support materials
- VCE Texts and Traditions – Set texts, passages for special study and themes (published annually)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2023–2027 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 key 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 sample questions has been published on the VCE Texts and Traditions [‘Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports’](#) page on the VCAA website.

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

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

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample questions.