

IM SYLLABUS (2016)

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

IM 28

SYLLABUS

Religious Knowledge IM 28 Syllabus	(Available in September) 1 Paper (3 hours)
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Aim:

Religious Knowledge at Intermediate level aims to take a comprehensive look at the Catholic Tradition in an ecumenical and multi-faith world by:

1. developing the knowledge and understanding of the key practices and beliefs of Catholic Christianity;
2. enabling students to investigate and understand the relevance of the Catholic faith to questions about truth and the meaning of life;
3. developing the skills of reflection, discernment and critical thinking in the light of the Gospels and the principles of Catholic morality;
4. enabling the personal encounter with the sacramental, liturgical and prayer life of the Church and encouraging the personal commitment to community service.

Assessment Objectives:

Assessment will take account of:

1. the knowledge and understanding of key aspects of Catholic Christian Faith, including an awareness of other Christian Traditions and other world religions;
2. each student's responses which demonstrate broader and deeper understanding, through critical reflection and moral reasoning;
3. students' awareness of ways in which they put their beliefs, values and attitudes into action;
4. the proper use and interpretation of religious vocabulary and concepts, references to the Bible and Church Documents.

Scheme of Assessment:

The examination will consist of one paper of three hours duration. Section A is compulsory and consists of 10 questions requiring answers in paragraph form. In Section B another five questions will be given, out of which candidates are to answer three in detail.

Each question in Section A carries 4 marks (for a total of 40 marks) and each of the questions in Section B carry 20 marks each (for a total of 60 marks). The marking scheme will take into account the above mentioned assessment objectives together with:

1. appropriate use of evidence and examples in one's argumentation;
2. a well focused reasoned response to the issues raised;
3. clear and coherent organization of the material presented;
4. good legibility and accuracy in religious terminology.

The Profession of Faith

- “I believe” – “We believe”
- Knowing God: Reason and Revelation
- Faith and its characteristics
- “I believe in God the Father”
- The almighty
- The creator of heaven and earth
- The truth and love
- The creator of humankind in his own image
- “I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God”
- The mystery of the incarnation
- The mysteries of Christ’s life
- The mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection
- “I believe in the Holy Spirit”
- The mission of the Holy Spirit
- Titles and symbols
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit
- “I believe in the Holy Catholic Church”
- The Church’s origin, foundation and mission
- Scriptural images of the Church
- The four marks of the Church
- Roles in the Catholic Church
- “I believe in the Resurrection of the body and in life everlasting”
- The resurrection of the dead
- The last things

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery

- The liturgy
- The liturgy and the Holy Trinity
- The liturgical year
- The sacraments
- The sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)
- The sacraments of healing (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick)
- The sacraments at the service of communion (Holy Orders, Marriage)

Christian Morality

- The dignity of the human person
- The vocation to beatitude
- Human freedom and moral choice
- The human and the theological virtues
- Sin
- The human community
- The person and society
- Participation in social life
- Social justice
- Sources of moral truth
- Natural moral law
- The Old Law and the New Law
- Church Law
- The Decalogue
- Honouring God (the first three commandments)
- Honouring family (the fourth commandment)
- Respecting life (the fifth commandment)
- Respecting sexuality (the sixth and the ninth commandment)
- Respecting property (the seventh and the tenth commandment)
- Respecting truth (the eighth commandment)

Christian Prayer

- The forms of prayer
- Blessing and adoration
- Petition
- Intercession
- Thanksgiving
- Praise
- Different expressions of prayer
- Vocal prayer
- Meditation
- Contemplation
- Special attention to praying with the Scriptures
- The Lord's Prayer
- "Our Father who art in heaven..."
- "Give us this day..."

Set texts:

Singer-Towns Brian et al., The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth – Second Edition, Saint Mary's Press, Winona MN, 2008. ISBN 978-0-88489-987-7 or ISBN 978-0-88489-988-4.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2005 (available online at www.vatican.va; Maltese printed version: ISBN 99932-49-32-7; English printed versions: ISBN 1-85390-998-X or 1-57455-720-3).