



Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

Module Assignments Handbook

Old Testament

1. What do you think the ancient tellers of stories were expressing in the creation stories in the book of Genesis? How might these stories be told and understood today?
2. What was the significance of the Exodus story in the ongoing history of the people of Israel? How does this story have meaning for contemporary Jews and Christians?
3. Give a description of the role of the prophet in the life of the people of Israel, illustrating your account with reference to a particular prophet.
4. Explain how the Church in recent times has sought to demonstrate that the Old Testament story of the Jews is a significant part of our own Christian story.
5. Discuss the enduring importance of Covenant in the experience and self-understanding of Israel.

New Testament

1. If the Gospels are not biographies, what is their purpose? Focus on either Mark or Matthew or Luke in your assignment.
2. What is the main purpose of the miracle stories in the New Testament? Use some examples from the Gospels to illustrate your answer.
3. What was the significance of the proclamation of the resurrection in the New Testament communities? What is its significance for Christian communities today? Use examples to illustrate your answer.
4. Show, with examples, how Jesus used parables to explain the Kingdom of God. What are the implications of the parables for the Church today?
5. Show, with reference to a specific passage, how John in his Gospel blends history, drama and theology.
6. Explain the relationship of the Infancy Narrative of either Matthew or Luke to the Gospel which it prefaces.
7. Choose one of the Pauline letters and discuss the circumstances of the church in question and the teaching this elicited from Paul. What is the message for today arising from this?

Christology

1. Select an image of Jesus that appeals to you and explain why it does. How would you communicate this to *either* another adult *or* children of the age group you work with?
2. Describe one of the New Testament portraits of Jesus Christ and explain how it helps us to understand who he is.
3. Select some articles from the Nicene Creed. How would you express these in a language that is understood today and a way that relates to the realities of daily life today?
4. “Who do you say that I am?” Discuss the significance of modern Christology with particular reference to one 20th Century theologian or movement.
5. “Too many Catholics have over-emphasised the divinity of Jesus at the expense of his humanity.” Discuss.
6. How does our understanding of the person and work of Jesus affect our dialogue with people of other faiths?

Church

1. Describe the contribution of Vatican II to the self-understanding of the Church, the extent to which this has become a reality, and any further developments you think need to take place so that the Church in England more fully corresponds to that vision.
2. Choose two models of the Church which you think are the most relevant for today and explain why you have chosen them.
3. Why did Vatican II stress the apostolate of the laity? How has this developed since Vatican II? How do you see it developing in the future?
4. What are the principles with which Catholics should work regarding our relationship with other churches?
5. With particular reference to Vatican II's *Nostra Aetate*, discuss the way in which the Catholic Church relates to other major world religions.

Sacraments

1. In what ways are the sacraments ‘signs’ of God’s presence and activity in our lives?
2. With reference to **either** *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* **or** *The Rite of Infant Baptism*, show how initiation into the Church is a process rather than an event.
3. Choose **one** of the seven sacraments and discuss its relevance and purpose in the life of the individual and of the Christian community.
4. “Marriage – the way to salvation”. Discuss.
5. Preparation for First Eucharist is often being taken out of school nowadays. Discuss the appropriateness of this move.
6. Confession; penance; reconciliation. Which do you feel is the most appropriate title and why?
7. How can we best present the Sacrament of Orders so as to promote vocations to the priesthood in the present climate of our society?
8. Discuss the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the light of its symbolism and its roots in Scripture and in human experience.

Christian Morality

1. Describe how you make moral decisions. What factors do you take into account? What criteria do you use? Where do they come from? Use examples to show this process works.
2. In facing moral questions, what do Christians have in common with all humanity? What is distinctive about Christian morality?
3. If morality is about listening and responding, to whose experience should we be more attentive? Whose voices would you like to be taken more seriously? Give examples of the contributions to moral thinking which you value.
4. Explain what we mean by 'conscience' (its nature and dignity, its authority and need to be formed) and describe the processes that are involved in the formation of a Christian conscience.
5. How would you explain the concept of sin?
6. Explain the respective roles of conscience and church teaching in moral decision making for Christians.
7. What role should the Church play in the formation of society? Illustrate your answer with reference to the development of Catholic Social Teaching over the last hundred years.
8. Christians, like everyone else, are becoming more conscious of the need to care for the earth. What does the Church teach about this? How has our moral awareness grown? How can we face this issue with hope?
9. If you were asked to draft the Pope's next encyclical on *either* sexuality *or* justice, what issues would you want to include in it and why?
10. As a governor of, or teacher in, a Catholic school, what policies and programmes for moral education would you want to see adopted?

Catholic Education

1. With reference to specific Church documents, outline the philosophy which underpins Catholic education.

Comment on how that philosophy is put into practice in a Catholic school highlighting any deficiencies you perceive.

2. Describe the process of faith development which unfolds when faith is seen as a relationship.

Outline the approach you would (or do) adopt to play your part in developing the faith of children in the age range you will (or do) teach.

3. Obtain a copy of the Mission Statement from a school you have contact with and offer a detailed critique. (If possible, discover the process by which it was generated and offer some comment on that).

Outline the documentation, procedures and practices that would need to be in place if the school were to be inspected against that Mission Statement.

4. Given the emphasis that the Church places on the idea of teaching as a vocation, describe the kind of spirituality for teachers that you would like to see being developed.

Comment on the contribution that this Certificate course can make to a teacher's personal and professional development and offer suggestions for how this could be built on at a later date.

Curriculum

1. Outline the Aims and Objectives, teaching styles and resources that are necessary if religious Education is to be taken seriously as a distinct curriculum area.
2. How should awareness of diversity of backgrounds, family relationships and faith experience of pupils be reflected in the teacher's approach to Religious Education?
3. Show how one particular aspect of Church teaching can be developed throughout a pupil's school career.
4. Describe how the effectiveness of Curriculum Religious Education can be measured both in regard to the individual pupil (through assessment and profiling) and in the academic life of the school (through inspection).