YEAR 8

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEST 2022

INFORMATION

June 2022

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YEAR 8 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEST 2022

General Information

- The test will consist of **50 multiple choice questions**.

- Total time for the test is **1 hour** which includes **10 minutes** for administration and **50 minutes** for students to answer the questions.

- Schools will receive their reports in hard copy. Information about test results is contained in this booklet.

- Sydney Catholic Schools will distribute the test packages to all schools and schools will return student answer sheets directly to New Data Solutions. **Please note, <u>Registered Mail</u> is required to ensure tracking of returned answer sheets. Please ensure that each envelope is securely sealed, using tape if necessary.**

- For further enquiries contact:
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  Sydney Catholic Schools
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Checklist and Timeline 2022

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 8 June (Term 2, Week 7)	Available to schools: RE Test Information Booklet and Number of Students and Confidentiality Agreement form
Friday 24 June (Term 2, Week 9)	Last day for 'Number of Students and Confidentiality Agreement' form to be completed by schools and uploaded to the Google Form emailed to RECs and located on RE Online.
Monday 5 September (Term 3 Week 8)	Year 8 Religious Education Test Package mailed to all Sydney Catholic Schools. Please check the contents on arrival and then secure them in accordance with the **Security and Confidentiality Protocols** located in this booklet.
Monday 12 September (Term 3, Week 9)	If you have not received the Test Package by this date please contact Anthony Munro on 0407 843 976 or email anthony.munro@syd.catholic.edu.au
Tuesday 18 October (Term 4 Week 2)	Teachers ensure that students have the necessary equipment to participate in the test i.e. 2B or B pencil and eraser (These are **not** included in the test package).
Wednesday 19 October *(Term 4 Week 2)*	**YEAR 8 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEST 2022**
Between Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October (Term 4, Week 2)	**PLEASE RETURN TEST ANSWER SHEETS** with the completed **Return Advice form** in the pre-addressed return envelope included in the test package. **(Note: the answer sheets are being sent to New Data Solutions, not SCS Central Office).** **Please ensure that you do not delay in returning the answer sheets. This will ensure that the results can be returned to students before the end of Term 4.** **Please note: Registered Mail is required to ensure tracking of returned answer sheets.**
Friday 28 October (Term 4, Week 3)	**LAST DATE** for answer sheets to **arrive** at New Data Solutions for marking.
Posted Monday 5 December (Term 4, Week 9)	Sent to schools: Student individual reports, certificates and school results. **Please note that the Test Booklets are to be returned to students with their certificate and results.**
Monday 12 December (Term 4, Week 10)	If you have not received student results by this date please contact Anthony Munro on 0407 843 976 or email anthony.munro@syd.catholic.edu.au
Amendments to Certificates/Reports	Schools who require amendments to student certificates and/or reports should fill out the 2022 Google Form located on RE Online.

Test Information

Date of Test: Wednesday 19 October 2022

Candidacy

- **All students** enrolled in Year 8 are required to participate in the test.

Disability Provisions

- Students with diverse learning needs undertake the test with the **same adjustments** that they normally receive in the classroom. This may include a 'reader' or 'scribe'.

- Teachers may give **additional time** to
    - students who have a 'reader' or a 'scribe'

    - students with learning or physical difficulties who do not have a 'reader' or 'scribe' but need more time

    - **students with vision impairment** using the large print format provided.

- Students with **vision impairment** can be supplied with the test and answer sheet in a large print format or in braille. This must be requested individually from each school and details will be provided on the Confidentiality & Number of Students form returned to Sydney Catholic Schools.

- If students use the large print format and/or coloured answer sheets, **their answers will need to be transferred to a standard answer sheet at the school** before returning this sheet with the other answer sheets to New Data Solutions for marking. The large print format answer sheet **IS NOT** to be sent to New Data Solutions for marking.

Absent Students

Students who are absent on the day of the test may sit the test **Thursday 20 or Friday 21 October 2022**. Please note that each returning student must sit the test in the first session of the school day.

Test security should be maintained until **Monday 24 October**. This means that there should be no discussion or explanation of the test questions with students. This is to maintain the security of the test until any absent students have completed it.

Marking

- The test will be marked by computer scanning at New Data Solutions.
- Schools will receive notification of results from Australian Catholic University.

Preparation for the Test

Students are required to enter the following information on the front of the answer sheet:

First Name & Surname	School code * (AGSC code)
Religion **	Year level
Years in a Catholic school	Gender
Language Background	Date of Birth
	Class *

CLASS

*   The school's AGSC code will be enclosed in the test package and is to be written on the board by the teacher for students to copy onto their test booklet and answer sheet.
**   The students will need to know and record their religion – please refer to the 'Grouping of Religions' guide on page 13.
***   *Each class can be identified individually. The REC will be required to allocate each class to a specific letter such as 8.1 would be allocated to letter 'A'.*

- Spend time discussing and practicing test techniques:
  - eg.   Read questions carefully.
          Attempt all questions, if possible.
          Answer the questions you are sure of first.
          Use a process of elimination for other questions.
          Check all answers once the test is completed.

- Revise test language with students. Discuss the meaning of words that often appear in test directions.

Protocols

- Results are to be reported in ways that support teachers in appropriate teaching and learning activities for students.

- The results relating to a particular child will be revealed:
    - to the child
    - to the child's parents
    - to the Principal and REC of the school
    - to the Year 8 Religious Education teacher/s.

- Principals/RECs will work with parents to ensure that the purposes and uses of student achievement data in Religious Education are meaningful and understood by the school community.

- Test results will not be used publicly to denigrate students, schools, teachers or principals.

- Evaluating school effectiveness in the area of Religious Education requires a range of measures, including qualitative judgement. Religious Education testing data is only one aspect of assessment and evaluation of the school's Religious Education Program. No simple conclusions can be drawn between individual student achievement data and school effectiveness.

- **It is not the intention of this test that it would be used as a school-based assessment task.**

Security and Confidentiality

Receiving the Test Package

Religious Education Coordinators (RECs) are responsible for the security and confidentiality of the test materials from the receipt of the materials up to and including their safe collection and dispatch.

The test package will be sent directly to schools from Sydney Catholic Schools.

The **REC** is to ensure that whoever receives/accepts the test materials upon delivery, delivers the parcel to them. Upon receipt of the parcel, RECs are asked to:

- **immediately open the Test package and ensure quantities of test papers and answer sheets are correct.**

- **phone Anthony Munro on 0407 843 976 or 9568 8207 immediately if more test papers or answer sheets are required or anything is missing from the test package (a checklist will be included in the package).**

- ensure that all teachers administering the test are provided with a copy of **'Instructions for Administering the Test'** (see page 9) and are familiar with the test procedures including provision for special needs students.

- ensure all teachers administering the test have the school's **AGSC** code.

- RE-SEAL the package and store it securely ensuring that the test is **not shown to anyone** until **19 October**. **RECs are asked not to read the test until the test day on 19 October**. **Do not discuss the content of the test with teachers.**

- ensure that there is no discussion or explanation of the test questions with students until **Monday 24 October**. This is to maintain the security of the test until absent students who return to school in the test week have completed it.

Instructions for Administering the Test

Before the Test Day

- Ensure the classroom is adequately prepared. Any information around the classroom that relates to Religious Education is required to be covered or removed.

- Ensure all students have the necessary equipment to participate in the test:
  2B or B pencil, eraser, sharpener, blank paper for students who want it.
  Pencils are not provided.

- Ensure that students understand test conditions:

  - Students must work independently**.** However, students with diverse learning needs undertake the test with the same adjustments that they receive in the classroom and/or test provisions.

  - Teachers may read a word or question to a student if the student cannot read it, but the teacher or 'reader' must only **read** and not prompt the student in any way.

  - Toilet breaks are not desirable.

Test Procedure and Time Allocation – approximately 1 hour in total.

1. Keep a class list noting all students who sit the test, including any students absent on the day who sit the test on either **Thursday 20** or **Friday 21 October**. The class list is NOT to be sent with the answer sheets; however, it should be kept at the school for checking purposes.

2. Indicate to students the test booklet and the answer sheet, clearly pointing out where answers are recorded.

3. Students complete details on their answer sheet including the school's **AGSC** code and also put their name and class on the test booklet. (3-4 minutes)

4. Students read and answer practice questions. Teacher to check that students are clear on how to read and answer these practice questions. (3-4 minutes)

5. Clarify any further queries from students. (2 minutes)

6. **Test participation time** – answering of questions. **(50 minutes)**

7. During the test, the supervising teacher is to walk around the room and ensure that all students are completing answers on the answer sheet and **NOT** in the booklet.

8. Once the test is concluded, the supervising teacher is to collect answer sheets and booklets separately. Test booklets remain in the school and are sent home with the results. They should be stored away until results are received.

9. **If a student finishes early they may submit their answer sheet after checking and read a book quietly for the remainder of the allocated time.**

10. The supervising teacher is to check that students have completed the information **on the front of the answer sheet** clearly and correctly. This is most important for the printing of test results and certificates. ***Please ensure students spell their names correctly.**

11. If students with vision impairment have used the large print format answer sheets and/or coloured answer sheets, their answers will need to be transferred to a standard answer sheet at the school before returning the school's answer sheets to **New Data Solutions Pty Limited** for marking. Large print format answer sheets **ARE NOT** to be sent.

Packaging Test for Return and Marking

After the Test

- Complete the **'Return Advice Sheet'** supplied in the Test Package and **place it on top of the school's completed answer sheets.**

- Please ensure that the number of answer sheets is correct.

- If more than one envelope is used please photocopy the completed form - 'Return Advice Sheet' and enclose a copy of this form with each envelope.

- Package answer sheets carefully as they need to be scanned.

- Send answer sheets to **New Data Solutions** using the pre-addressed envelope included in the test package (***please note that this is not a reply-paid service***). This should be done as soon as possible after the test and **immediately after the last catch-up day on Friday 21 October. * Registered Mail is required to ensure tracking of returned answer sheets.**

- Store test booklets for sending to parents with results when they are received.

Test Results

Reports to Schools

All principals/RECs in Sydney will be sent the following reports in hard copy from Australian Catholic University:

- School Certificate to display in the school
- Summary of results
    - Results summary
    - Analysis by skill area
    - Question analysis
    - Student response analysis
    - Students' results in alphabetical order
    - Students' results in order of achievement

Also included will be:

- Student letters for all participating students
- Certificates of High Distinction, Distinction, Credit and Participation.

Grouping of Religions Guide

RELIGION	DESCRIPTION
CATHOLIC	Catholic-Roman
	Catholic-Maronite
	Catholic-Melkite
	Catholic-Ukrainian
	Catholic-Malabar (India)
	Catholic-Armenian
	Catholic-Chaldean
	Catholic-Syrian
	Catholic-Coptic
	Catholic-Russian
	Catholic-Other
ORTHODOX	Orthodox-Greek
	Orthodox-Russian
	Orthodox-Antiochian
	Orthodox-Serbian
	Orthodox-Macedonian
	Orthodox-Armenian Apostolic
	Orthodox-Syrian
	Orthodox-Syrian Indian
	Orthodox-Coptic
	Orthodox-Ethiopian

	Orthodox-Other
OTHER CHRISTIAN *In Alphabetical Order*	Anglican / Church of England
	Apostolic Assyrian
	Armenian Apostolic
	Baptist
	Brethren
	Churches of Christ
	Jehovah's Witnesses
	Latter Day Saints
	Lutheran Church
	Presbyterian
	Salvation Army
	Seventh Day Adventist
	Uniting Church
	Christian Other
OTHER RELIGIONS	Buddhism
	Hinduism
	Islam
	Judaism
	Non-Christian Other
	No Religion
	Not Provided