



### Why study SOR?

SOR equips students with an understanding of the major worldviews and philosophies that underpin the belief and behaviour of individuals and their expression in contemporary life. These courses broaden a student's understanding by helping them to grapple with other ways of seeing the world, and prepares them for life in multicultural society.

### What type of student would be interested in doing Studies of Religion?

Students who are interested in history, philosophy, societies, cultures, religions and worldviews will thoroughly enjoy the in-depth nature of this course. As stated in the SOR syllabus, the aim of these courses is to "promote an awareness, understanding and critical appreciation of the nature of religion and the influence of religious traditions, beliefs and practices in societies and on the individual, with an emphasis on the Australian context." (Stage 6 Studies of religion syllabus document 1999, p.8).

### Barker offers two pathways in completing Studies of Religion: 1 Unit and 2 Unit.

#### What is the difference between 1 Unit and 2 Unit?

1. 1 Unit and 2 Unit have three common depth studies
2. 2 Unit has an additional three depth studies
3. 1 Unit has a 1.5 hour exam
4. 2 Unit has a 3 hour exam
5. 1 Unit has 4 periods / cycle
6. 2 Unit has 7 periods / cycle

#### Why would 1 Unit be suitable for students?

The advantage is for students to carry an extra unit into the HSC. They can use 1 Unit as their 12<sup>th</sup> unit in Year 11 and 12 to offset an Extension Unit. For students who are in between unit numbers can carry 1 Unit SOR rather than keeping a full two-unit course going forward.

#### Is there a choice of religions to study?

The NESA syllabus provides specific religions and content which must be covered. Within the scope of the syllabus choices are then made at the school level as to which religions will be explored. Those choices have been reflected in the unit tables above.

### What does assessment look like?

We assess students in a variety of ways including written excursion reports, oral presentations, research essays and examinations.

The Preliminary end of year exam, the HSC Trial exam and final HSC exam mirror each other. Each has 3 sections common to both 1 Unit and 2 Unit Studies of Religion:

- Section I – 10 multiple choice questions and one 5-mark short answer
- Section II – a series of short answer questions
- Section III – an essay

Examinations for 2 Unit Studies of Religion are double the length, following the same pattern as above for an extra three sections.

2023 HSC papers:

- 1 Unit [click here](#);
- 2 Unit [click here](#).

#### How do you approach the study of religion?

We encourage our students to ask enquiring questions about the different worldviews we encounter and to develop the skills of critical analysis. We help our students to understand, with compassion, the beliefs, and practices of other religions, seeking to see the world through their eyes. Students develop the skill of communicating their ideas in creative ways and through different mediums. We encourage our students to personally respond to what they learn, allowing their understanding to shape the way they live and interact with others. As with all Barker subjects, we do this in the context of the Christian purpose of the school.

If you have other questions, please email the Head of Christian Studies Department, Mr. Rob Hughes at [rhughes@barker.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rhughes@barker.nsw.edu.au)

## How is the course structured?

### 1 Unit

Preliminary Course	Duration Indicative hours
Nature of Religion and Beliefs Includes Aboriginal spiritualities	16
Religious tradition study 1: Islam Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
Religious Tradition Study 2: Christianity Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

HSC Course	Duration Indicative hours
Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945 Includes current religious trends, Aboriginal spiritualities	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 1: Islam A significant person, ethic and practice	22
Religious Tradition Depth Study 2: Christianity A significant person, ethic and practice	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

### 2 Unit – ALL of the above PLUS

Preliminary Course	Duration Indicative hours
Religion in Australia pre-1945 Includes the establishment, development and contribution of religion in Australia pre-1945	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 3: Buddhism Includes origins, development, beliefs, practices	22
Religions of Ancient Origin Study of two ancient religions – Nordic, Shinto	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

HSC Course	Duration Indicative hours
Religion and Non-Religion Exploring the human search for meaning through both religion and non-religion	16
Religious Tradition Depth Study 3: Buddhism A significant person, ethic and practice	22
Religion and Peace How two different religions approach the issue of peace	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>