

AM SYLLABUS (2026)

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

AM 28

SYLLABUS

**Religious Knowledge AM 28
Syllabus**

(Available in September)
Paper I (3 hrs) + Paper II (3 hrs)

Aims

Encourage students:

1. To develop a greater appreciation of the role of Religion in human experience
2. To have a more objective and coherent grasp of the Catholic Tradition and its sources
3. To have the ability to relate the Christian message to the basic personal experiences and to the demands of a modern / postmodern culture
4. To develop a critical and inquiring approach to religion
5. To situate the specificity of the Christian religion in the context of an ecumenical and multi-faith world.

Assessment objectives

Students are required:

1. To demonstrate an objective knowledge of the Catholic Church's teachings as rooted in the Word of God and in the Church's Tradition and Office of Teaching;
2. To relate the Christian message to the contemporary social and cultural context, both local and worldwide;
3. To sustain good and founded arguments in discussing issues of a religious and moral nature.

Marking scheme

The examination of Religious Knowledge at Advanced Level will consist of Two Papers of three hours each. Each Paper will have two sections and students are required to answer three questions, one from each section and any other.

Given that the answers required are in essay form, the following parameters are to be taken into consideration for assessment purposes:

1. Knowledge and understanding of the topics studied
2. the right use of religious language and terminology
3. an adequate knowledge of the teachings of the Church and the sources referred to
4. a good grasp and analysis of the issues studied
5. The ability to discuss topics pertaining to individual and social life from a religious perspective.

Paper I: The Scripture and the Creed

Section A : The Christian Bible

- Its origin and formation
- Continuity between the Old and New Testaments
- Major themes in the Old Testament: Creation, Exodus, The Decalogue, The Prophets, The Exile,
- Major themes in the New Testament: The Synoptic Problem, John's Gospel, Historical Truth of the Gospels, The Passion Narratives, The Resurrection

Section B : The Creed

- The Nature of Faith
- Faith, Reason and Revelation
- The formation of the Creeds
- The Concept of Tradition
- Christian Doctrine
- God as Trinity. The Christian doctrine of God
- Jesus as Unique saviour of humanity. The question of universal salvation
- The Holy Spirit
- The Church : One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic
- Hope and Eternal life

Paper II: Liturgy and Christian Morality

Section A : Liturgy and the Sacraments

- What is the Liturgy?
- The Church as a worshipping community
- The Day of the Lord
- The Liturgical Year
- The Sacraments and Christian Life

- Sacraments as Actions of the Church
- Rites and Symbols
- Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick
- Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders

Section B : Christian Morality

- General morality
- The basis of Christian morality: the Commandments and the Beatitudes
- The moral life in a changing culture: the sources of moral truth
- Respecting life, truth, and the dignity of the human person
- Specific morality
- Marriage and Family issues
- Respect for the Body, Love and Human Sexuality
- Building a Culture of Life
- Global Peace, Sustainable Development and the Building of a Just Society
- The public role of the Church and religion.

Set Texts:

Lawrence S. Cunningham, An Introduction to Catholicism, Cambridge University Press 2009

Alister E. McGrath, Christianity : An Introduction, Oxford : Blackwell Publishers 2004

Suggested Reading:

George T. Montague, Understanding the Bible: A Basic Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, New York : Paulist Press 2007

Ph. Beguerie & Cl. Duchesneau, How to Understand the Sacraments, London: SCM Press 1991

J-N. Bezancon, Ph. Ferlay & J-M. Onfray, How to Understand the Creed, London: SCM Press 1987