



YEAR 11 COURSE HANDBOOK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

RELIGION AND LIFE

Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum at Nagle Catholic College. In Years 11 and 12, the course becomes WACE recognised and is called Religion and Life. This means that your studies in Religion and Life will count toward your graduation and achievement of WACE.

All social and individual life everywhere is influenced by religious issues, thinking, and actions, and therefore deserve attention and analysis. Religions, historically and in the present, are critical in individual, social and political life around the globe.

The course is inherently multidisciplinary as it examines human experiences and understandings, cultural influences, global insights, and traditions. Students develop skills in thinking critically, listening empathetically, speaking thoughtfully, and writing succinctly.

Should I do General Religion and Life General or ATAR Religion and Life?

General Religion and Life

Students who plan to be work ready and seek an apprenticeship, a TAFE course or gain direct employment post-graduation should seriously consider General Religion and Life. In General Religion and Life you will learn about the relationship between religion, society, and individuals. There will be rich discussion about controversial issues, and time for you to reflect about your own personal beliefs and what is important to you in life.

The course is interesting, thought provoking, and engaging – designed to help you achieve good grades.

ATAR Religion and Life

Students who plan to continue with further study at university post-graduation should seriously consider ATAR Religion and Life. Students need to reflect on their grades in Year 10 and help use these of an indicator of how they will perform in the course. That is why we recommend students have at least a B grade in Year 10 English and Religious Education.

Other factors to consider regarding ATAR Religion and Life

Students who plan to do ATAR English or ATAR Literature, or a Humanities and Social Sciences course, could benefit from undertaking ATAR Religion and Life. ATAR Religion and Life is skills based – you will be able to grow and practise skills in writing, analysis, and inquiry. This will complement the learning you are doing in other courses and prepare you well for university.

The ATAR Religion and Life course is very interesting! It will challenge your thinking in a good way.

Do students need to have a personal faith, and attend Church to do this course?

Students' personal faith, experiences and opinions can certainly contribute to their learning and understanding, however, a religious background is not necessary for participation in the course.



ARTS

MUSIC

ATAR

Do you have to play an instrument to study Music?

Yes. You need to be Level 3 or 4, or a serious composer.

What if I have not studied Music since Year 7?

You will find the courses challenging. Speak to a Music teacher as soon as possible to see if you can do a “crash course” in theory.

Will I be required to pay for individual music lessons?

Yes. If you are doing the performance option, you must have a tutor. Your tutor may be from outside of Nagle.

GENERAL

Do you have to play an instrument to study Music?

Yes. You need to be level 2 or 3, or interested in composing.

What if I have not studied Music since Year 7?

You will need to work hard to catch up your theory in your own time. Speak to a music teacher to see what catch up theory work you can do in Year 10.

Will I be required to pay for individual music lessons?

No, however they are always advantageous.

MEDIA

What if I have not studied Media since Year 7 or 8?

No prior skills or knowledge are required. You will be taught necessary camera work and editing skills as required throughout the course.

Will I be required to buy my own camera equipment or editing software?

No. You will be able to borrow school equipment during production tasks and will be given a 12-month license for Adobe Premiere Pro to use on your personal device.



ENGLISH AND LANGUAGES

LITERATURE

What is it?

Literature is a subject that our Year 10 students can select instead of, or in addition to English. Literature is focused on reading and interpreting three text forms: poetry, drama and prose and writing analytical essays in response to these. No visual texts are studied in Literature. There is a Creative Writing component included in each Semester.

Who should study Literature?

Students who have a real passion for reading books. Students who are interested in the history of Literary periods. Students who are successful English students who want to be challenged. With challenges, comes rewards. Many students are rewarded in this subject if they keep up with coursework and engage with the texts offered.

What are some benefits associated with this subject?

A small class size- strong connections with students and teachers are formed.

Encourages higher order thinking and creativity (for people who think outside of the box). No creative writing in the exam.

What is the difference between ATAR English and ATAR English Literature?

ATAR English and Literature are both demanding courses. Students in these courses are expected to read texts in their own time and during holidays and complete weekly homework. Self-discipline and a strong work ethic are required for students to experience success in both courses.

English and Literature both centre on the appreciation and enjoyment of different texts and analyzing them and deconstructing them in a range of different ways.

In ATAR English, four text types are studied each year: novel, documentary, film, and expository text.

In Literature, three text types only are studied: prose (or a novel or short stories), poetry, and play.

Both courses have a three-hour exam at the end of each Semester.

The Literature exam consists of two sections:

Section 1 - Close Reading section: Three unseen text extracts; a piece of prose, a poem, and an extract from a play, and students choose ONE to perform a close reading on.

Section 2 - Extended Response section: Ten essay questions. Students will choose TWO and write two essays from the ten on the texts you have studied over the year.



The ATAR English exam consists of three sections:

Section 1 - Short Answer Response section: Two to three unseen texts (One of which will be a visual/multimodal text) and THREE questions to be answered.

Section 2 - Essay Responses section: Six essay questions. Students will choose ONE and write ONE essay referring to text/s studied in the course.

Section 3 - Composing Section: Five questions. Students will choose ONE question and write a creative text in response to the question they select.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ATAR HEALTH STUDIES

1. What career pathway could this course lead to?

This course will prepare students for careers and study pathways in a range of health and community service fields.

2. Is this course similar to the Lower Secondary Health course?

No. Students undertaking this course develop the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to promote an understanding of the importance of personal and community action in promoting health.

3. What skills are required for this course?

Research and inquiry skills. Sound writing skills.

ATAR PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES

1. What career pathway could this course lead to?

The course prepares students for careers and study pathways in a range of sport, leisure and recreation fields, education, sport development, youth work, and health and medical fields linked to physical activity and sport.

2. What is the written to practical component of this course ratio?

There is a heavy theory component to this course. The general breakdown is four periods theory and one period practical throughout the week.

Assessment breakdown – 70% written component and 30% practical performance.

3. What sports are covered throughout the year?

In Year 11 ATAR Physical Education Studies students will be assessed on two sports, volleyball and badminton. In Year 12 ATAR Physical Education Studies students will be assessed on the one sport for their school mark (teacher selected) and for their WACE Practical exam they will be required to select one of the following sports, AFL, badminton, basketball, cricket, hockey, netball, soccer, tennis, touch and volleyball.

GENERAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION

1. Do we go on any camps?

Yes. Throughout the Year 11 and Year 12 courses students will have the opportunity to participate in a two-night expedition in Kalbarri, a three-day, two-night hiking expedition (destination to be confirmed), a three day, two-night expedition to Rottneest Island and a one-day expedition, leading a camp for a Year 8 Outdoor Education group.

2. What is the theory to practical workload?

The course has a greater practical component over ATAR Outdoor Education and appeals to students with varying backgrounds, physical activity knowledge and dispositions.

Assessment breakdown – 50% written component and 50% practical performance.



3. Will there be an exam?

Yes, but only in Year 12. Students will be required to sit an externally set task. This is a written task or item or set of items of 50 minutes duration developed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and administered by the school.

4. What career pathway could this course lead to?

The course will prepare students for career and study pathways in areas such as outdoor leadership, environmental interpretation, environmental planning, facilities management, eco-tourism, military service and outdoor education.

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CERTIFICATE II IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

1. Do we go on any camps?

Yes. The Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation has various camps over the year long course. These include a five-day trip to Coral Bay where students go fishing, snorkelling, swim with manta rays, and a day trip to Kalbarri abseiling and rock climbing.

2. What qualifications do I achieve?

Students will gain a wealth of experience in teamwork, environmental awareness and leadership. Students come out with a Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation and Senior First Aid. Many units covered in the course can be used as RPL for many other courses in the future. This means that it could take time off your future studies if you choose to do so.

3. What is the theory to practical workload?

Depending on the unit, some are more practical based, some more theory. Students will get assessed on theory and practical components of the course.



CERTIFICATE II IN SPORT AND RECREATION

1. What career pathway could this course lead to?

The course opens doors to a variety of career and study pathways, all in the sport and recreation industry. It provides students with the skills and knowledge to work in sporting facilities such as the Basketball stadium or Aquarena. It will also provide students with the skills and knowledge to coach sporting teams which may lead to an interest in teaching.

2. What is involved in the course?

The course is comprised of theory and practical learning. Incorporating learning relevant skills into sports. It includes practical assessments, theory questions, water-based activities, sports injury prevention experience, event meal planning for athletes, some coaching experience, OHS knowledge and much more.

3. What is the theory to practical workload?

Depending on the unit, some are more practical based, some more theory. A general workload is 70% theory and 30% practical.

4. Do we play sports?

There will be an opportunity to play sports during the week, through playing sports the learning experiences happen. The sports designed to facilitate learning experiences (e.g. the set up and pack up, the handling of equipment, scoring and officiating, planning sessions for younger people.)

5. What qualifications do I achieve?

Students come out with a Certificate II in Sport and Recreation, First Aid and Water Rescue Qualification. Many units covered in the course can be used as RPL for many other courses in the future. This means that it could take time off your future studies if you choose to do so.



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Why choose a Humanities and Social Sciences subject?

There is good sense in choosing a Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) course in your selection of subjects.

1. HASS teaches you a particular set of social skills that are in high demand in the modern world of work such as working in groups, being able to produce products and negotiate outcomes in collaboration with a team.
2. HASS subjects also have important conceptual frameworks (ways of thinking) that are not taught in other areas of the curriculum. These ways of thinking will help you to solve problems and function effectively in the modern ever-changing environment.
3. HASS subjects also teach a set of unique skills that are directly transferrable to real life situations like reading maps, interpreting visual data and images, and evaluating policies. By mastering these skills students will be more competitive in the modern workplace.

What is Economics about?

Economics is the study of how societies, governments, businesses, households, and individuals make decisions to allocate resources such as raw materials, food, taxes and so on.

A study of Economics involves two aspects:

1. Developing models of behaviour to predict how people will respond to changes in policy and markets.
2. The second aspect involves using statistical data to investigate these changes and the effect of decisions that people make.
3. Studying economics will help students to understand the tax system, inflation, unemployment, and the welfare system. Understanding the economic principles that underpin society can help students to lead effective futures as citizens in a competitive capitalist society.

What subjects do I need to study to become a lawyer?

It is recommended that if you take Politics and Law, you should also be studying English at an ATAR level. Depending on the field of law that interests you, it would be beneficial to select History, Geography, Economics or Accounting. Selecting a second HASS subject to complement your Law interest will be of substantial value when studying Law at university.

What is Accounting and Finance about?

The Accounting and Finance ATAR course aims to make students financially literate. It helps students to analyse and make informed decisions about their finances, both personal and business. Financial matters affect every member of our society.

Students will learn how to prepare and interpret financial statements (balance sheets, income statements and cashflow statements) for sole traders, partnerships and companies. The Year 12 course focuses on companies and the regulatory requirements they must comply with, including the role and duties of a company director.



What career path could this course lead to?

The course will prepare students to study a Bachelor of Commerce or Certificate courses in Business and/or Accounting. Career pathways may include public accounting, management and/or administration. The course will also prepare students to analyse financial data and make informed decisions should they operate their own business, become a company director or be involved in the committee of community/sporting organisations.



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MATHEMATICS

Can I do Specialist and Applications?

No. If you want to complete Specialist Mathematics you must choose the Methods course as well.

Can I just do Specialist?

No. If you want to complete Specialist Mathematics you must choose the Methods course as well.

What is the minimum requirement for – Applications/Methods/Specialist?

Applications: Students should have achieved a C grade or above in Year 10 Accelerate Mathematics or have achieved a C grade or above in Year 10 General Mathematics.

Methods: Students should have achieved a B grade or above in Year 10 Accelerate Mathematics.

Specialist: Students should have achieved an A grade in Year 10 Accelerate Mathematics.

Do I need Methods or Specialist to study medicine at university?

No.



SCIENCE

What Science subjects do I need to study to become a doctor?

You can maximise your chances of entry into University of Western Australia, Curtin University or Notre Dame by getting a high ATAR, but a high ATAR does not mean you will automatically gain a place. Your ATAR is considered by medical schools alongside your UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test) and interview scores to calculate your ranking for entrance.

The Science Department recommends Chemistry, Physics and/or Human Biology to achieve the best possible ATAR. Whilst studying these subjects you will develop a strong work ethic which will hold in good stead during your undergraduate studies. Chemistry is a prerequisite at Curtin University.

What Science subjects do I need to study to become a physiotherapist/speech therapist/occupational therapist?

Again, these degrees are quite competitive. Curtin University states a minimum ATAR of 90, in practice this can be much higher. The median rank to receive an offer in Physiotherapy in 2020 was 90.

The Science Department recommends Human Biology and Chemistry to help achieve the best possible ATAR.

What Science subjects do I need to study to become an engineer?

To survive the academic rigours of engineering at university, Physics and Chemistry are the recommended subjects.

Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist are highly recommended. It will put students at a disadvantage if they do not study at least Mathematics Methods.

What Science subjects should I choose if I am not sure of my post-secondary plans?

The Science Department suggests Chemistry and Human Biology or Biology when students are not sure of their plans after school.

Other popular combinations are Biology and Earth and Environmental Science or Human Biology and Psychology.

Can I study Biology and Human Biology in Year 11 and 12?

Yes. Biology and Human Biology can be studied at the same time.



TECHNOLOGIES

ATAR MATERIALS, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

Can I do this subject if I have not done Technologies subjects in past years?

Provided you are proactive and passionate to succeed evidence has shown that students with limited practical skills can learn very quickly and not be disadvantaged.

Why would I do Woodwork if I am going to university?

In this subject we do use materials such as wood. This is because our whole economy runs on the production of goods and services that ultimately come from the use of materials. We use wood because it is relatively easy to use, available and environmentally friendly.

Through this subject we bring together all the disciplines of Mathematics, Science, English and HASS in a holistic way to solve problems. This subject is one of the few that teaches you project management, taking responsibility for your own learning and also giving you the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them. By the student being directly involved in their individualised learning experience, they are more likely to succeed in university having had exposure to student centered learning.

A past student who studied engineering at university said he was way ahead of his classmates as he had been exposed to project management, materials and AutoCAD.

What career paths does this subject lead to?

There are the obvious ones such as architecture, engineering, materials science, project management and teaching. The less obvious ones that this subject prepares you for include dentistry, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing and medicine. This is because these disciplines require strong material science and practical skills.

What are the exams like?

All ATAR subjects have a similar degree of difficulty. In this subject you will be required to sit a two and a half hour written exam. Your practical side is assessed through the submission of a design portfolio of your work.

What are the benefits of this subject?

People learn in different ways and are passionate about different things. If you like being in a more practical learning environment where you are in charge of planning your work and getting the results from your effort than this is a great subject. When we are in the workshops making your individually designed products we listen to music, get to move around, and talk with fellow students to collaborate.