

## Religious Education at Leaving Certificate

Religious Education for the **Leaving Certificate** is a diverse subject that explores the human search for meaning, ancient and modern philosophy, morality, global cultures, why religion exists, non religious world views.

It is assessed at both **Higher** and **Ordinary** levels and it builds valuable skills in objective and critical thinking, independent research and analysis.

## Assessment Structure

The subject is split into two main components:

- **Coursework (20%):** An extended research project (approx. 1,500 words) based on [prescribed titles](#) released annually by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). The coursework is started in 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Written Exam (80%):** A terminal paper lasting **2.5 hours** (Higher) or **2 hours** (Ordinary). The paper consists of 8 short essay style answers (2 for each section of the course)

## Syllabus Content

The course is divided into three units:

1. **Unit One (Compulsory):** The Search for Meaning and Values. This covers philosophy (e.g., [Socrates and the Sophists](#)), spirituality, and the human drive to question and find meaning.
2. **Unit Two (Choice of Two):**
  - a. [Christianity](#): Origins and contemporary expressions.
  - b. World Religions: Primal, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism.
  - c. Moral Decision-Making: Exploring conscience, ethical systems, and social justice.
3. **Unit Three (Choice of One):** Specialisation in areas like Religion and Science, Gender, or Justice and Peace, Biblical Literature.

See subject power point for more detail [RE at LC.pptx](#)