Ethics and Religious Studies (Secondary 4 - 6) Curriculum Framework

Appendix 1

Added content

Removed content

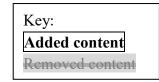
2.2.1 Compulsory Part: Ethics

This is an introductory study of ethics. The emphasis is on value formation and judgement based on rational thinking. Students have to study certain personal and social issues so as to nurture their abilities to make ethical judgements and informed choices.

Key:

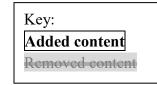
Module 1: Normative Ethics

Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes	
The Nature of	Moral principles	basic moral principles such as kindness, harm avoidance, respect for autonomy and loyalty	
Morality		• differences between moral principles and moral rules: moral principles are applied universally	
		and moral rules have the meaning of behaviour restraint	
	Moral reasoning	clarification of moral concepts	
		upholding the value of rational thinking	
		• sustaining an open-minded attitude (without self-interest or prejudice)	
	Pluralism	Chinese and the Western values and morality	
		Seeking possible consensus and respecting the differences among people who hold various moral	
		principles in a pluralistic society (e.g. tolerance and respect)	
	Morality and religion	• relationship between morality and religion: contradictory, mutually supplemented or not related	
Theory of	Consequences	the priority of the good over the right	
Conduct		• judgement of right or wrong depends on the goodness or badness of the consequences (e.g.	
		Utilitarianism: good consequences mean right, bad consequences mean wrong)	
		Act-Utilitarianism and Rule-Utilitarianism	

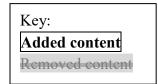


Module 1: Normative Ethics

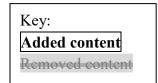
Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes	
	Duties	• the priority of the right over the good	
		• judgement of right or wrong according to the nature of the action itself (e.g. Kantian: duties are	
		right regardless of consequences)	
		• the possible incompatibility of duties (e.g. fairness may not be in line with loyalty)	
Theory of Value	Intrinsic value	• definition of intrinsic value: the built-in value of the matter itself	
and Virtue		• examples to illustrate the meaning of intrinsic value	
	Instrumental value	• definition of instrumental value: value desirably judged in terms of achievement of other ends	
		examples to illustrate the meaning of instrumental value	
	Quality	an essential and distinguishing attribute of something or someone	
		• desirable qualities of loyalty, filial piety, integrity, fairness, honesty, responsibility, prudence,	
courage, etc. • undesirable qualities of lies and cheating, selfishness,		courage, etc.	
		• undesirable qualities of lies and cheating, selfishness, retaliation, jealousy, etc.	
Priority • ranking among competing virtues (e.g. loyalty an		• ranking among competing virtues (e.g. loyalty and filial piety)	
	Conflicts	• virtues and values may not be compatible (e.g. honesty may not be compatible with compassion)	



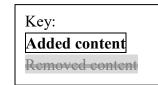
Units	Related	Explanatory Notes
	Phenomena/concepts	
Human Rights	Inherent dignity	• why human rights should be respected and how they form an essential constituent or
		characteristic of being human
		situations which deny inherent dignity
	Nature of rights	rights and duties
		• rights and the rule of law
		duties and protecting one's rights
		• human rights and development of history
	Civil and political	• learning of the following concepts from a specific perspective (e.g. children's rights/
	rights	women's rights/rights of freedom from racial discrimination)
		• the rights of privacy, access to information, belief, personal expression, association and
		freedom of person (prevention of slavery and forced labour), etc.
		• the impacts of pluralism, elaboration of reasonable restrictions and implementation
		through local legislation
	Economic, social and	• learning of the following concepts from a specific perspective (e.g. children's rights/
	cultural rights	women's rights/rights of freedom from racial discrimination)
		• the rights to work and just treatment, subsistence, health care, education, housing and
		enjoyment of culture, etc.
		• specific indicators for the implementation of rights, such as: availability, accessibility
		and adequacy of human rights protective measures
		• the impacts of pluralism, elaboration of reasonable restrictions, and implementation
		through local legislation



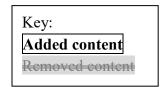
Units	Related	Explanatory Notes	
	Phenomena/concepts		
	Prevention of	• the roots of discrimination	
	discrimination	different manifestations of discrimination	
		some past and present examples of discrimination	
	Self-determination	• ways in which one exercises the right of self-determination autonomy rights	
	Autonomy		
Life and Death	Right to raise a family	to raise a family or not to raise a family	
		personal and social considerations	
	Birth control	causes of and reasons for birth control	
		• views on birth control from different cultural, political and religious perspectives	
	Abortion	causes of and reasons for abortion	
		ethical considerations: pro-life or pro-choice	
	Ageing	legal, cultural, religious and philosophical attitudes towards ageing	
	Suffering	legal, cultural, religious and philosophical attitudes towards suffering	
	Suicide	• responsibility to self, to others and to society; consequences of decisions, respect and love for	
		one another	
		ethical considerations	
	Euthanasia	• categories of euthanasia: active euthanasia, passive euthanasia, voluntary euthanasia, non-	
		voluntary euthanasia and involuntary euthanasia	
		ethical considerations	
	Capital punishment	theories of punishment: deterrence, retribution and transformation	
		ethical considerations	



Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
Sex,	Heterosexual and	love and sexual relationship
Companionship	homosexual	values and characteristics of heterosexual relationship
and Family	relationships	ethical issues in the homosexuality debate
	The single life	causes of and reasons for having a single life
		different attitudes towards the single life
		consequences of living a single life
	Premarital and	different attitudes towards premarital sex
	extramarital sex	consequences of extramarital sex on spouse and family
	Marriage and divorce	meaning of marriage
		elements of a good marriage
		causes of divorce and its consequences
	Pornography	causes of pornographic activities
		reasons for supporting or opposing pornography
		attitudes towards pornography
	Prostitution	causes of prostitution
		reasons for supporting or opposing prostitution
		attitudes towards prostitution
	The family	functions of the family for individuals and society
		impact on the family system of modern society
		how the family system responds to the issues of companionship
		how forms of companionship illuminates one another



Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes	
Bioethics	Medical ethics	relationship between health care professionals and patients	
		• rights of patients	
	Gender selection	reasons for gender selection	
		ethical issues in gender selection	
	Genetic engineering	meaning of genetic engineering	
		ethical arguments for or against genetic engineering	
	Cloning	the cloning debate	
		• ethical arguments for or against cloning	
Environmental	Pollution and	causes of environmental pollution	
Ethics	consumerism	consumption and its environmental consequences	
		• how materialistic values influence the relationship between human society and the	
		environment	
	Use and exploitation of	arguments for or against using and exploiting nature	
	the natural environment		
	Biodiversity and	• instrumental and intrinsic value of nature: maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity	
	conservation	importance of conservation to environmental protection	
		• arguments for or against using animals for food and experimentation	
	Global village and	multiple meanings of sustainable development	
	sustainability	common goal and conflicts between economic development and environmental protection	
		need for a global perspective in solving environmental problems	



Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes	
Business and Economic Ethics	Justice/fairness/equality		
		industrial action)	
	Poverty	the origin of povertycauses of poverty in a globalized world and its solutions	
	Advertising	 ways by which advertisements transmit messages and values positive and negative effects of advertisements values that guide advertisements 	
	Social responsibility of corporations	 profit motive and social responsibility obligations to stake-holders such as consumers, the community and shareholders ethical considerations related to the production process and outcomes 	
Media Ethics	Information and entertainment	• the right of a person to know and to be informed, and the role of the mass media in modern life (e.g. to transmit information, facilitate communication and provide entertainment)	
	Freedom of speech and editorial independence	 the significance of freedom of speech in human society and its relations with the mass media the power of freedom of speech and how the media can abuse it the need for critical evaluation and public accountability problems with media owned by corporations or political parties in a globalized world 	
	Code of ethics and professionalism	 professional conduct in the mass media (respect for the individual and for privacy) role and mission of media professionals: report the facts and promote stand for justice (legal, moral and professional values considerations) 	

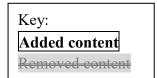


Units	Related Phenomena/concepts	Explanatory Notes
	Media Ethics issues	 the impact of stereotyping on society dangers of misleading information, indoctrination and emotive provocation censorship: arguments for and against censorship; balance between protecting freedom, privacy and public interest Changes and concerns brought about by new media (including fake news, online public trials and privacy)

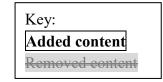
2.2.2 Elective Part I: Religious Traditions (Choose **ONE** only)

Module 1: Buddhism

Unit 1: History of Buddhism

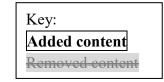


Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
Rise of Buddhism • Historical background	The influence of Indigenous Indian culture and Aryan culture	 life and culture of aboriginal societies in ancient India social changes after the Aryan invasion founding of the four caste system and its impacts the teachings of Brahmanism, revolutionary ideas and practices of the samanas at the time of the Buddha
• Life of the Buddha	Birth Growing up Renunciation Search for teachers Practice of austerity Giving up austerity, enlightenment	 family background and birth understanding of human life and the world during childhood education and marriage the four encounters and renunciation practising asceticism and meditation self-mortification abandoning asceticism enlightenment
	First turning of the wheel of dharma	 first Sermon on the Four Noble Truths meaning of the Four Noble Truths in Buddhism



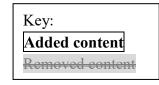
Unit 1: History of Buddhism

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
	Preaching along the river Ganges Nirvana	 followers of the Buddha from different castes: Ananda Yasa, Sariputra, Maudgalyayana, Bimbisara, Anathapindada and Upali, etc. last teachings and nirvana
• Formation of the Buddhist Canon	First and Second Councils Collecting Buddhist Canon	 cause, process, outcome and impact of the First Council organised by Maha Kasyapa after the Buddha's Nirvana
	The four councils	• cause, process, outcome and impact of the Second Council next three councils
	The Tripitaka: its significance and development	• contents of Tripitaka , and its different editions
Spreading of Buddhism • Development of Buddhism in India	Early Buddhism (from the time of the Buddha to around one century after the Buddha's nirvana) Schisms and Sectarian Buddhism The rise of Mahayana Buddhism The rise of various Mahayana schools (Prajnaparamita, Madhyamaka, Yogacara, Tathagatagarbha and Esoteric Buddhism) Decline and extinction	 early Buddhist doctrines and the life of the early sangha Schism and the formation of Sectarian Buddhism origin and development of Mahayana Buddhism formation and development of Prajnaparamita philosophy formation and development of Madhyamaka philosophy formation and development of Yogacara philosophy formation and development of Tathagatagarbha thought formation and development of Esoteric Buddhism causes of the decline and disappearance of Buddhism
	Decline and extinction	causes of the decline and disappearance of Buddhism



Unit 1: History of Buddhism

	Topics	Key Points	Explanatory Notes
•	Development of Buddhism in China other regions	The Introduction and Development of Buddhism in China East Asia China Western countries	 introduction to and development of Buddhism in South Asia countries, such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Burma introduction to and development in East Asian countries, such as Japan and Korea introduction to and development in China, (including the periods of introduction, growth, maturity, decline and revival) Introduction and development of Buddhism in the West
C •	ontemporary Buddhism Theravada Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Western Buddhism	The distinctive teachings and organisations	 distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Theravada Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Chinese Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Tibetan Buddhism distinctive teachings and organisations of contemporary Western Buddhism



Unit 1: History of Buddhism

	Topics	Key Points		Explanatory Notes
•	Pluralistie	Development of Buddhism in Hong Kong	•	introduction and development of Chinese Buddhism
	Development of	The roles of Chinese Buddhism, Theravada Buddhism		in Hong Kong
	Buddhism in Hong	and Tibetan Buddhism in the development of Buddhism	•	introduction and development of Theravada
	Kong	in Hong Kong		Buddhism in Hong Kong
			•	introduction and development of Tibetan Buddhism in
				Hong Kong
		Social contributions of Buddhism in Hong Kong	•	The services of Buddhism in Hong Kong, including social welfare, medical services and education



Unit 2: Basic Buddhist Doctrines

	Topics	Key Points		Explanatory notes
•	Four Noble Truths	Truth of Suffering	•	the meaning and value of the Four Noble Truths the Truth of Suffering: phenomena of
				unsatisfactoriness in life
		Truth of Arising of Suffering	•	the Truth of the Arising of Suffering: defilements and their causes
		Truth of Cessation of Suffering	•	the Truth of the Cessation of Suffering: extinguishments of defilements – Nirvana
		Truth of methods for ending suffering	•	the Truth of the Path: means to the extinguishment of defilements – the Eightfold Paths
			•	the relationships between the Four Noble Truths
•	Dependent Origination	Significance of the Dependent Origination	•	the meaning of Dependent Origination
			•	the relationship between Dependent Origination and
		Meaning and Development of the Dependent Origination		Dependent Arisen
			•	the explanation of life and existence by Dependent Origination
•	Twelve links of	Meaning of each link	•	the name and meaning of each link
	Dependent Origination	Rebirth and liberation	•	explanation of the arising and cessation of life by the
				Twelve links of Dependent Origination



Unit 2: Basic Buddhist Doctrines

	Topics	Key Points		Explanatory notes
•	Karma and rebirth	Meaning of karma and rebirth Comparison of the Brahmanic and the Buddhist notions of karma	•	the meaning of karma, karmic causes, karmic efficacy, karmic retribution the relationship between karmic retribution and rebirth types of karma: determinate karma, indeterminate karma, shared karma and individual karma have reflection on: taking control of one's destiny; mind as the master of life; one reaps what one sows; treat all sentient beings as equals; rebirth is suffering, etc similarities: suffering caused by craving; relationship between karma and the past, present and future lives; good deeds cause good results, bad deeds cause bad results
	P' 1		*=	differences: concept of self – Brahminism "permanent self"; Buddhism "non-self"; renunciation
•	Five aggregates and non-self	Composition of the five aggregates	•	the meaning of the five aggregates the characteristics of the five aggregates: non-
	non-sen			identical, impermanent, non-voluntary
		Meaning of non-self	•	the abandonment of attachment and the attainment of
				nirvana
•	Three Marks of	Meanings of three marks of existence	•=	historical background
	Existence		*=	the meaning of the marks
			•-	the meaning of each mark: impermanence, non-self
				and nirvana



Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

	Topics	Key Points		Explanatory notes
•	1	Tripod of Buddhist practices: discipline, concentration and wisdom Distinctive practices of the five vehicles	• c i i s s	the meaning of discipline, concentration and wisdom overcoming the three poisons (desire, hatred and ignorance) by the tripod of Buddhist practice the vehicles of human beings, celestial beings, sravakas, pratyeka-buddhas and bodhisattvas differences in motivation, practice and attainment of the five vehicles
•	of human beings and celestial beings	The aim of rebirth as human beings and celestial beings Taking the three refuges and practising the five precepts	• t • t • t • t • t • t • t • t • t • t	the vehicles of human beings and celestial beings are the foundation of Bodhisattva vehicle the meaning of taking refuge the meaning of the three treasures: Buddha, Dharma and Sangha the five precepts: the fundamental precepts (refraining from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct and lying); the protective precept (refrain from consuming intoxicants)
		Practising the ten virtues	k v c	the ten virtues: three body virtues (refraining from killing, stealing and sexual misconduct); four verbal virtues (refraining from lying, licentious speech, duplicitous speech and harsh speech); three mental virtues (refraining from desire, hatred and ignorance)



Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

Topics	Key Points	Explanatory notes
• The sravaka and the	The aims of liberating from rebirth, attaining freedom	• the way to the rapid cessation of rebirth and personal
pratyekabuddha	from suffering, and achieving the stage of sravaka and	deliverance
vehicles	pratyekabuddha	the meaning of sravaka and pratyekabuddha
		• the meaning of arhatship
	Practising the four foundations of mindfulness	• the meaning of mindfulness
		• the four foundations of mindfulness: body, feelings,
		state of mind and dharma
	Realising the truths of impermanence, suffering,	• impermanence: the phenomenon of constant change
	emptiness and non-self	• suffering: suffering associated with the unpleasant;
		suffering arising from the inevitable destruction of the
		pleasurable; suffering inherent in sentient life
		• emptiness: non-identical, impermanent and non-
		voluntary
		• non-self: absence of an identical, permanent and voluntary substance
		• the meaning of the right view, right thought, right
		speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right
		mindfulness and right concentration
	Practising the Eightfold Paths	• the relationship between the Eightfold Paths and the
		tripod of Buddhist practice
	Attaining the four stages of enlightenment and nirvana	• the meaning of the four fruits: srota-apanna-phala,
		sakradagami-phala, anagami-phala, arhat-phala
		• the meaning of nirvana



Unit 3: Buddhist Practices

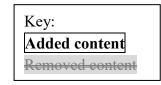
	Topics	Key Points		Explanatory notes
•	Practices of	The aim of universal liberation	•	the meaning of bodhisattva
	Bodhisattva vehicle	Dependent origination and emptiness	•	realising the truth of emptiness
		Practising the six perfections and four all-embracing	•	the six perfections: charity, discipline, forbearance,
		virtues		effort, concentration, wisdom
			•	the four all-embracing virtues: charity, kind words,
				beneficial acts, and adaptation of oneself to others
		Practising the four immeasurable minds	•	the meaning of the four immeasurable minds:
				compassion, sympathy, empathetic joy and equanimity
		The mind of great compassion and Bodhicitta	•	the mind of great compassion: help sentient beings to
				become free from suffering
			•	Bodhicitta: the pursuit of enlightenment
		Attaining the Great Bodhicitta, the great nirvana and the	•	The Great Bodhicitta: the ultimate and perfect
		Buddhahood		enlightenment
			•	the great nirvana: cessation of all forms of everlasting
				defilement and rebirth
			•	the Buddhahood: three bodies (dharma-body,
				retribution-body, transformation-body)



Module 2: Christianity

Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Textual Background			
The faith of the Old Testament	The Passover	Ex. 12:21-42	To point out how God acts to save and liberate the Israelites: • the first Passover: salvation and judgement
	The Sinai Covenant	Ex. 19:1-8, 20:1-21	 Pharaoh frees the Israelites To show that Israel became God's chosen people by
			covenant:
			God invites the Israelites to become His chosen people by covenant, and to serve Him as priests
	Exile	Mic. 3:9-12	To explain the reasons why the Israelite nation fell
		Ezek. 6:8-10	into ruin: idolatry and social injustice
		2 Kings 25: 1-21;	To show the situation of the Israelites when they
		2 Chr. 36: 20-21	were exiled to Babylon:
			• King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon leads his army to Jerusalem and destroys the Temple, and the Israelites were exiled
	Promise of a New Covenant	Jer. 31:3-4, 31-34;	To show how God promises to make a new and better
		Ezek. 36:22-28	covenant to bring the people into an even closer
			relationship with Himself:
			 background: (1) Israel repeatedly breaks the covenant and turn to idols; God punishes them by war, defeat and exile; (2) God's purpose is to change His people so as to demonstrate His holiness to all nations the new covenant brings purification, forgiveness, a new heart and mind, and an experiential knowledge of God



Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	The Messianic Hope	Isa. 11:1-9	 To explain the Jewish hope which was focused on the coming of the Messiah: the Messiah will come as a shoot growing from the stump of David's dynasty like David, the Messiah is to be empowered by the Spirit and to rule in justice
History and identity of Israel	The theme of election		
in the Old Testament	• Meaning of the chosen people	Deut. 7:6-9, 14:2; Ps.	To show the rights and duties of the Israelites as God's chosen people
	• Circumcision	33:12; Isa. 14:1, 41:8-9	To show the reasons for and meanings of circumcision
	The theme of covenant	A1 1 ' C 12 1	T 1 11 4 C1
	• Nature and content of the		To show the nature of the covenants:
	covenants	3, 15:1-21, 17:1-22; <u>Moses</u> in Ex. 19:4-5, 20:1-17, 23:20-33,	 God takes initiatives to set up covenants people have to obey God so as to obey the covenants
		24:1-8; <u>David</u> in 2 Sam. 7:16, Ps. 89:2-4	To understand the contents and nature of different covenants:
			 the covenant between God and Abraham the covenant between God and the Israelites after
			exodus • the covenant between God and David To understand the relationship between covenant and election
History between the two Testaments	 Hellenization Independent War of Maccabees Roman occupation 		To understand the measures and effects of Hellenization when Greece seized Palestine To understand the causes, process and influence of the Independent War of Maccabees



Unit 1: Background

Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Socio-political Background			
	Roman occupation: To explain the		To introduce the political situation in Palestine in the
 Palestine in the first 	political situation in Palestine		first century A.D.
century A.D.	The Procurator		
•	King Herod		
	• Sanhedrin		
	To show the characteristics of		To understand the background of the Sadducees,
	some Jewish sects		Pharisees, Zealots, Herodians and Essenes
	• Sadducees		
	• Pharisees		
	• Zealots		
	 Herodians 		
	• Essenes		
	To show the situation of the		To understand the situation of the people and
	people and their background		officials in Palestine in the first century A.D.
	* Peasants, fishermen, landlords,		
	eraftsmen and businessmen		
	*—The officials: tax-collectors,		
	priests, Levites, synagogue		
	elders		
	Important historical event		To show what happens in the destruction of the
	• The destruction of the Temple		Temple and its consequences
	at Jerusalem in A.D. 70		



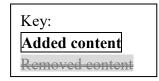
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Jesus' Ministry • Birth and childhood	·	Mt. 1:18-25, 2:1-23	To introduce Matthew and Luke's accounts of the birth and childhood of Jesus: the coming of the Son of God: descendant of David, born to be King born of a virgin to be born in Bethlehem the killing of children
	Luke's accounts of the birth of Jesus To describe the childhood of Jesus	Lk. 1:26-56 Lk. 2:1-52	 the escape to Egypt and return to Nazareth the role played by Mary, Joseph, the angels, the wise men, King Herod, Simeon and Anna the coming of the Son of God: human, born of a virgin the role played by Mary, Joseph, the angels and shepherds family background physical and intellectual development sense of communion with God the Father
MinistryPreparationBaptism	John the Baptist	Mk. 1:2-8, 6:14-29	To show the character and work of John the Baptist: • John's appearance and behaviour • John's message, role and ministry • John's imprisonment and death • the importance of repentance and forgiveness



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Jesus' baptism	Mk. 1:9-11	To point out the importance of Jesus' baptism:
			• the meaning of baptism in the days of Jesus and
			today
			 Jesus coming to John for His baptism
			• the signs of God's approval of Jesus
Temptation	The temptation of Jesus	Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-	To explain the significance of the temptation of
		13	Jesus:
			• the background to the temptation of Jesus
			• the nature of the temptation
			• Jesus' replies
			To demonstrate how it is possible to overcome
			temptations in daily life:
			• obedience to God, submission to the teaching of
			the Bible, and determination to resist Satan
 Jesus calls ordinary 			To show that discipleship is a call from Jesus:
people to be His disciples	Jesus calls four fishermen to be His disciples	Mk. 1:16-20	• Jesus calls ordinary people to be His disciples
	Jesus calls Levi, the tax-collector to	Mk. 2:13-17	• the meaning of "disciple"
	be His disciple		
 Jesus sends out the 	Jesus chooses the 12 Apostles	Mk. 3:13-19	• the appointment of the 12 Apostles
Apostles	Jesus sends out the Apostles to	Mk. 6:7-13	• the meaning of "apostle"
	preach		• the work, power (authority) and mission of the disciples/apostles

Key:
Added content
Removed content

	Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
•	Miracles			
	Healing	Jesus heals a leper	Mk. 1:40-45	To show that Jesus has the power to heal and that it is
		The man with a paralysed hand	Mk. 3:1-6	part of His ministry:
		Jairus' daughter	Mk. 5:22-23, 35-43	• Jesus performs the healing miracles because of
		The woman who touched Jesus'	Mk. 5: 24-34	His compassion and the people's faith
		cloak		• the different reactions of the people to these
		A woman's faith	Mk. 7:24-30	miracles
		Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida	Mk. 8:22-26	• Jesus keeps His identity hidden in some of these miracles
	 Authority over evil 	Jesus heals a man with evil spirits	Mk. 5:1-20	To show that Jesus has the power over evil spirits and
	spirits	Jesus heals a boy with an evil spirit	Mk. 9:14-29	that defeating evil spirits is part of His ministry:
				• Jesus fights to destroy evil spirits because of his compassion and the people's faith
				• people's reaction to Jesus' words and deeds
				• Jesus reveals His identity in these miracles
	Power over nature	Jesus has power over a storm	Mk. 4:35-41	To show that Jesus exercises His power over nature
		Jesus has power to feed 5,000	Mk. 6:30-44	out of His concern for the people's needs, and to
		people		point out the importance of faith in facing
				difficulties:
				Jesus calms a storm and feeds a multitude
				• the disciples are limited by their lack of faith and understanding
	Others	The Pharisees set a trap for Jesus by	Mk. 8:11-13	To emphasise why Jesus performed miracles:
		demanding a miracle		• the misunderstanding of people about performing miracles
				Jesus' standpoint on performing miracles



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Transfiguration	Mk. 9:2-8	 To point out the glory of Jesus in His transfiguration: confirmation of the divinity of Jesus the appearance of Moses and Elijah, and the voice of God acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God
 Passion 			God
	Jesus' three predictions about His suffering	Mk. 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34	 To show why the Messiah has to suffer: Jesus' three predictions about His suffering the Messianic Secret Peter's misunderstanding of Jesus' role Jesus' preparation of His disciples for His coming suffering
Before suffering	Entrance into Jerusalem	Mk. 11:1-10	To show how Jesus makes His role as the Messiah public, thereby fulfilling the prophecy: • riding on the colt into Jerusalem is a prophetic sign of Messiahship • the way the people welcome Jesus shows their misunderstanding of Messiahship • Palm Sunday
	The anointing at Bethany	Mk. 14:1-11	To show that the anointing is a preparation for Jesus' death: the Jewish leaders' plot to arrest Jesus secretly Jesus praises Mary's deed Judas agrees to betray Jesus



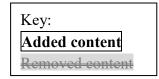
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Topics	The Lord's Supper	Mk. 14:12-31	To explain the meaning of the Last Supper: • Jesus foretells His coming suffering and the reaction of the disciples • the Feast of the Unleavened Bread and the Passover • the significance of the Last Supper in the days of the disciples and in the church today
	Gethsemane	Mk. 14:32-42	 Maundy/Holy Thursday To point out how Jesus as a human being shrinks away from His suffering, but finally determines to do the will of God at all costs: Jesus' example: to pursue the way of God in prayer Jesus exhorts the disciples to be watchful and to
■ Arrest	Arrest	Mk. 14:43-52	pray for strength to resist temptation To give an account of the unjust arrest of Jesus: the roles of Judas, the guards, the disciples, the Jewish leaders and the false witnesses
	Before the Council	Mk. 14:53-65	To show how Jesus is condemned for acknowledging His identity as the Messiah: • the Jewish Council



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Peter's denial	Mk. 14:66-72	To explain why and how Peter fails and denies Jesus,
			and to help students learn from Peter's failure:
			• in spite of Jesus' warning, Peter denies Him
			• the reasons for Peter's failure
			• the importance of repentance
	Before Pilate	Mk. 15:1-15	To show how Jesus voluntarily submits to the
			injustice done to Him:
			• the unjust and illegal trial
			• the parts played by Pilate, the Jewish leaders and
			the crowd
Crucifixion and burial	Crucifixion and death	Mk. 15:16-41	To give an account of the Crucifixion and explain its
			meaning:
			• the meaning of "crucifixion"
			• the fulfilment of prophecies
			• Jesus' words on the cross
			To compare the reaction of different people to the
			crucifixion:
			• the soldiers, Simon of Cyrene, the two bandits,
			the priests and scribes, and the bystanders
	Burial	Mk. 15:42-47	To give an account of Jesus' death and burial:
			• witnesses to Jesus' death: Joseph of Arimathea,
			the Roman Officer, and some women
			Jewish burial
			Good Friday



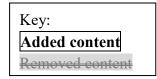
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
 Resurrection and 	The Resurrection	Mk. 16:1-14	To describe the events that took place at the
Ascension			Resurrection:
			• the message of the Resurrection
			• the role of the angels and the women, including
			Mary Magdalene
			• the reaction of the people concerned
			To point out the relevance of the Resurrection for
			Christians today:
			• Jesus promises His disciples power and authority, and to be with them always
			Jesus gives His disciples the mission to spread the Good News
			• the meaning of Resurrection
			Jesus is alive and present with His people
			• Easter
	The Ascension	Mk. 16:19-20	To explain the meaning of Jesus' Ascension:
			• Jesus resumes His glory (the meaning of sitting at
			the right hand side of God the Father)
			• the Kingdom of God has come
			• Jesus' followers worship Him and the Lord
			confirms their work for the Kingdom of God with
			the signs of the Messianic Age
Jesus' Teachings			
 Kingdom of God 			To point out the characteristics of the Kingdom of
6			God and its citizens:
■ The coming of the	The Lamp under the Bowl	Mk. 4:21-23	• The Lamp under the Bowl: the secret of the
Kingdom of God	1		Kingdom of God is to be disclosed
	The Growing Seed	Mk. 4:26-29	• The Growing Seed: the inward invisible growth
			of the Kingdom



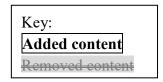
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	The Mustard Seed	Mk. 4:30-34	• The Mustard Seed: the outward visible growth of
			the Kingdom
_	Repent and believe the Gospel	Mk. 1:15	• demands repentance and faith
God	Virtue of love	Mk. 9:41-50	• purity of heart
	Jesus blesses little children	Mk. 10:13-16	childlike humility
	The rich young ruler	Mk. 10:17-27	whole-hearted devotion
 The Kingdom of God is 	Prediction of the "throwing down"	Mk. 13:1-6	*—the "throwing down" of the Temple is coming;
come – the End of Days	of the Temple		and many people will pretend to be the Messiah
	No man knows when the Day will	Mk. 13:32-37	- a man taking a long journey: servants should
	come		watch out and get ready for the return of the
			master
• Will of God			
 Teachings for His 			To understand how to take the responsibilities of a
disciples			citizen in the Kingdom of God:
 Life style 	Humility and service	Mk. 9:33-37	• the least is the greatest in the Kingdom of God
	To be a servant of others	Mk. 10:42-45	• take Jesus as a role model in serving others
	To remember Jesus	Mk. 14:22-25	• take Jesus' body and blood in order to remember Jesus' salvation for all
- Promises	Whoever is not against us is for us	Mk. 9:38-41	a willingness to accept other servants of God
- Fromises	Detachment and rewards	Mk. 10:28-30	• to give up what one has in the world will receive
	Detachment and rewards	WIK. 10.28-30	God's reward
	Receive the Holy Spirit	Jn. 20:19-23	• the risen Jesus sends his disciples, grants the
			Holy Spirit and the power of remitting and
			retaining sins to them
 Cost and mission 	Take up one's cross and follow Jesus	Mk. 8:34-38	renunciation and self-denial
	Go into the world and preach the	Mk. 16:15-20	• preaching the Gospel is the mission given by
	Gospel to every creature		Jesus before His Ascension



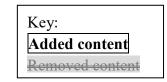
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Parables			To explain Jesus' purpose in using parables, and to introduce some parables and show their relevance to our daily lives:
 Parables about the Kingdom of God 	The Sower	Mk. 4:1-20	The Sower: the different responses to God's message
	The Tenants in the Vineyard	Mk. 12:1-12	• The Tenants in the Vineyard: the Jewish leaders' rejection of the prophets and the Messiah
 Parables about the End of Days 	Ten Virgins	Mt. 25:1-13	• Ten Virgins: people have to prepare well for the arrival of the End of Days all the time
·	The Sheep and the Goats	Mt. 25:31-46	• The Sheep and the Goats: the qualifications to enter into the Kingdom of God at the End of Day
 Parables about moral conduct 	The Unmerciful Servant	Mt. 18:21-35	The Unmerciful Servant: the basic attitude of forgiveness
	The Good Samaritan	Lk. 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan: all people are our neighbours
- Other parables	The Talents	Mt. 25:14-30	• The Talents: the need to use our talents well in order to be a good steward of talent
	The Lost Sheep	Lk. 15:1-7	• The Lost Sheep and The Lost Son: God's
	The Lost Son	Lk. 15:11-32	unconditional love and welcome for sinners who repent
■ Law			To point out the true meaning of the Law and traditions, and correct the misunderstanding of the Jewish leaders:
 Laws and traditions 	The greatest commandment	Mk. 12:28-34	• to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, one should love God and one's neighbours, which is more important than offerings and sacrifices
	Forgiving sin	Mk. 2:1-12	• the true meaning of forgiving sin
 Debates on Laws and traditions 	Teachers of the Law condemn Jesus for eating with the outcasts	Mk. 2:16-17	God also loves sinners, and Jesus states that He comes for sinners



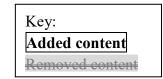
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Conflict over ritual fasting	Mk. 2:18-22	• the incompatibility of the old and new spirit
	Conflict over the Sabbath	Mk. 2:23-28	• the Sabbath is made for people's sake, and not as
			a burden
	Clean and unclean	Mk. 7:1-5, 14-22	 the real source of uncleanness
	Traditions to the elderly	Mk. 7:6-13	• it is wrong to give traditional laws a higher position than the Law
	A question on divorce	Mk. 10:1-12	 the true will of God about marriage
	A question about paying taxes	Mk. 12:13-17	• people have different duties in response to their different roles in the world
	A question about rising from death	Mk. 12:18-27	 resurrection exists
	A question about the Messiah	Mk. 12:35-37	• the Messiah is both man and God
 Sermon on the 	Sermon on the Mount:		To show that the Sermon is about a God-centred
Mount	Characteristics of the citizens of the		approach to life:
	Kingdom		
	The Beatitudes	Mt. 5:3-12	(a) ways that lead to true happiness
	Salt and light	Mt. 5:13-16	(b) to be salt and light in the world
	The six antitheses	Mt. 5:21-48	(c) based on a proper relationship with God rather than religious rituals
	Emphasis on true piety	Mt. 6:1-18	(d) to trust God and not any material thing
	Attitude towards life	Mt. 6:19-7:11	(e) to maintain good human relationships by forgiving and not by judging others
	The Golden rule	Mt. 7:12	(f) to build one's life on the teaching of Jesus and not the Jewish tradition
	Three warnings	Mt. 7:13-27	(g) to strive for absolute morality and impartial love



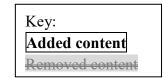
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
Jesus' Identity			To show different views of Jesus' identity from different people:
• Jesus in the eyes of the Jews	Using the power of Beelzebub	Mk. 3:20-22	 Teachers of the Law accuse Jesus that He is inspired by the devil since He has the power to cast out unclean spirits
	Jesus is rejected at Nazareth	Mk. 6:1-4	 people in Nazareth know Jesus to be a carpenter and do not accept His higher status
	Jesus is regarded as the risen John the Baptist	Mk. 6:14-16	 Herod Antipas regards Jesus as the risen John the Baptist
	Jesus is regarded as John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets		• people other than the disciples regard Jesus as John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets
	Rabbi/teacher	Mt. 23:8-10	People regard Jesus as a rabbi, teacher
• Jesus in the eyes of His disciples	Son of God	Mk. 1:1, 3:11, 5:7, 14:61, 15:39	• the disciples understand Jesus as Son of God as a result of His miracle-performing
	Messiah	Mk. 8:29, 14:61-62, 15:32	 the Jewish views of Messiah at Jesus' time Jesus' interpretation of the meaning of Messiah
Jesus' understanding of Himself	Son of Man	Mk. 2:10, 2:28, 8:31, 10:45, 14:62	• the meanings of Son of Man: (1) has the right to forgive sins; (2) Lord of the Sabbath; (3) has to suffer; (4) the one who serves people; (5) will come back from heaven in glory
Development of the Early Church	The Ascension	Acts 1:6-11	 the promise of the Holy Spirit and the power to witness the Ascension



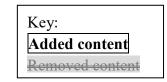
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	Pentecost – the coming of the Holy	Acts 2	To show that the Pentecost is the birthday of the
	Spirit		church:
			• the form and gift of the Holy Spirit
	Peter's preaching	Acts 2	To introduce the content of the proclamation of
			the Early Church:
			 Peter's proclamation begins the active
			spreading of the Gospel by the Church
	Persecution of the early believers	Acts 5:17-33, 6:8-15,	To show the courage of the apostles as
	(Stephen and James)	7:54-8:3, 12:1-5	witnesses of Christ:
			• the apostles, forbidden to preach, choose to
			obey God and not man
			• the threat of execution
			• the faith of Stephen as shown in his arrest
			and death
			Herod executes James
	Conversion of Saul	Acts 9:1-19	To give an account of the conversion of Saul
			and its importance for the development of the
			Church:
			• Saul's vision of the Risen Lord on the road
			to Damascus
			God reveals His purpose to Ananias and
			sends him to baptise Saul



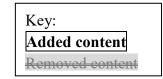
Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
			To explain the nature of conversion:
			• the meaning of the conversion of Saul:
			(a) complete break with his past
			(b) freedom from the struggle for
			righteousness
			(c) displacement of self
			(d) complete change of values



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
-	Preaching to the Gentiles	Acts 9:20-11:30	To show the source of Peter's power to heal,
			and to show the Gospel was spread in Judea:
			• Peter heals in the name of Jesus and many people believe
			To show how God prepared to reveal His
			salvation to all:
			• God gives a vision to Cornelius, a devout Roman centurion
			• Peter learns in a vision that salvation is for
			all
			• Peter explains that the coming of the Holy
			Spirit to the Gentiles is the proof of God's
			acceptance
			To show the work done by the church in
			Antioch:
			 Christians from Cyprus and Cyrene preach
			to the Gentiles in Antioch and many
			Gentiles turn to the Lord
			-Barnabas is sent by the church in Jerusaler
			to help in Antioch, and Barnabas invites
			Saul to help
			*the term "Christians" is first used,
			signifying separation from Judaism
			Antioch sends famine relief to Judea



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
	The Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-21	To explain the reason for calling the Council:
			• Paul and Barnabas bring the problem of
			circumcision to the apostles in Jerusalem
			To explain that the compromise of the Early
			Church enabled Christianity to become a world
			religion:
			 Peter emphasises that salvation by grace is for both Jews and Gentiles
			 four rules are drawn up to make it easier for Jewish believers accepting Gentiles as Christians
	The Gospel spreads to Rome (Paul's	Acts 28:16-30	To show that Paul preaches the Gospel to the
	missionary journeys)		Gentiles in Rome
Development of basic			
Christian belief			
• Salvation			The influence of Paul in the development of the
			Christian faith:
Paul's three perspectives	Change of sovereignty	1Cor. 7:23	• people are free from their sins by the
of salvation		Rom. 6:15-18	precious blood of Jesus, and become servants of God
	Mystical transformation	2Cor. 5:14-15	 actual and symbolic meaning of death and resurrection of Jesus and His people
	Justification by faith	Rom.1:16-17	• the meaning of justification by faith
James' concept of	Faith and work	Jas. 2:14-26	James' teaching as a complement to Paul's
salvation			concept of justification by faith
New Commandment	Love one another	Jn. 13:34, 15:12	To show how John states that Jesus gives a new
			commandment to His disciples:



Topics	Key Points	Biblical References	Explanatory Notes
		1Jn. 2:7-11, 3:11-18	• love one another: one has to know how to
			love another in the way Jesus loves His
			people