

Religious Education: Understanding Sacred Texts

Learning objective: To assess understanding of the significance, structure, and influence of sacred texts within major world religions.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers are clear and demonstrate your understanding of how sacred texts guide believers in their daily lives. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas accurately.

Sacred texts are more than just books; they are the foundational documents of a religion. They contain stories, laws, poetry, and wisdom that have been passed down through generations. For many, these texts provide a direct connection to the divine, offering a framework for living a virtuous life and understanding the mysteries of existence. Whether it is the Torah, the Bible, the Qur'an, the Guru Granth Sahib, or the Vedas, these writings serve as a bridge between ancient teachings and modern practice.

Word bank: Revelation · Scripture · Interpretation · Guidance · Community · Moral code · Tradition · Authority

1. Define the term 'sacred text' in your own words. Why are these books considered 'holy' by their followers? (2 marks)

2. Explain how a sacred text provides a 'moral code' for a believer. Give one example of a rule or teaching found in a religion you have studied. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how different religions treat their sacred texts (e.g., how they are stored, handled, or read in public). (4 marks)

4. Justify why some believers choose to memorise large portions of their sacred texts rather than simply reading them from a page. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to a religious community if their sacred texts were lost or forbidden? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: 'Sacred texts are living documents that change as society changes.' Discuss this statement. To what extent do you agree? Provide evidence or examples to support your argument. (5 marks)

7. Identify one way that a sacred text influences a religious festival or celebration. (2 marks)

8. Explain the role of a religious leader (such as a Rabbi, Imam, or Priest) in interpreting sacred texts for their congregation. (3 marks)

Draw: Imagine you are designing a beautiful cover for a sacred text. Draw a design that includes symbols of peace, light, and wisdom. Annotate your drawing to explain why you chose these specific symbols.



Extension challenge: Research a sacred text you are less familiar with. Write a short paragraph explaining its origins and the language in which it was originally written. Total: /25