

Classroom Based Assessment 2: The Human Search for Meaning



The Human Search for Meaning

Students will, over a period of 3 weeks, with support/guidance by the teacher, explore artistic or architectural or archaeological evidence that shows ways that people have engaged in religious belief/the human search for meaning and purpose of life.



The learning outcomes assessed will, to an extent, depend on the topic chosen. The Learning Outcomes that may be particularly relevant to *The Human Search for Meaning* are set out below. Teaching these learning outcomes is essential for students' successful engagement in this CBA.

As human persons, we all seek meaning and purpose in life and there are some common questions that underpin this search such as: what is the purpose of life? Why am I here? What makes for happiness? Can one life make a difference? What happens when we die? Is there a God/gods/Divine Reality? These questions are common (shared by everybody); central (help us understand ourselves and our world); and contestable (can lead to different and sometimes competing understandings). It is important that this CBA explores one of more of these questions drawing upon artistic, architectural or archaeological evidence.

For this CBA, the term **artistic evidence** can be taken to mean work produced by an artist, craftsperson or musician.

Architectural evidence refers to buildings and physical structures.

Archaeological evidence refers to material remains of past human life (such as monuments, artefacts and other physical remains).

(Please see *NCCA Religious Education Assessment Guidelines* for further information, pages 23-36)

Expressing Beliefs	1.5 explore the presence of religious themes in contemporary culture through an examination of art, music, literature or film
Exploring Questions	2.1 research artistic, architectural or archaeological evidence that shows ways in which people have searched for meaning and purpose in life 2.2 consider responses from one major world religion and from a non-religious world-view to some big questions about the meaning of life, such as, why are we here? How should we live? What happens when we die?

Possible ways of selecting a topic

Artistic	Architectural	Archaeological
A painting/series of paintings	Cemetery	Ancient temples
A statue or sculpture	Gravestones	A sacred river
A musical composition or song	Mosque	A burial tomb
A film	Temple	A pilgrim path
A piece of literature	Shrine	A holy well
	Church or Cathedral	
	Memorial or monument	

