

Resit Assessment Rubric

More information regarding assessment can be found in the Overview section of this course. Just to remind you, however, **that you must spread your assessment over three units**. I.e. if you choose to complete the book/article review for Polytheism and Monotheism, you must not choose to complete the encyclopaedia article or short essay from this unit.

Component 1: Book/Article Review

You must choose one of the books/articles from the following list to review:

Polytheism and Monotheism [week 2]

Smith, M. S. *The Origins of Biblical Monotheism: Israel's Polytheistic Background and the Ugaritic Texts*, Oxford, 2001.

Ritual and Ceremony [week 3]

Kyriakides, E. *Ritual in the Bronze Age Aegean: the Minoan Peak Sanctuaries*, London: 2005.

Ritual and Society [week 4]

Clark, A. *Divine Qualities: Cult and Community in Republican Rome*, Oxford: 2007.

Sacred Texts in Ancient Religions [week 5]

Henrichs, A. 'Hieroi logoi' and 'hierai bibloi': the (un)written margins of the sacred in ancient Greece', *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 2003, 101, 207-266.

Myth and Religion [week 6]

Dowden, K. *Uses of Greek Mythology*, London: 1992.

Death, Pollution and Rites of Passage [week 7]

Branigan, K. *Dancing with Death. Life and Death in Southern Crete c. 3000-2000 BC*. Amsterdam: 1993.

Cosmology, Society and Religion [week 8]

Eliade, M. *The Sacred and the Profane. The Nature of Religion*. New York: 1961 [or any other edition].

Religion and Power [week 9]

Mu-chou Poo. *In Search of Personal Welfare: A View of Ancient Chinese Religion*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998, ch. 5, “Emperors, Courtiers, and the Development of Official Cults”,

Religions in Contact [week 10]

Edwards, D. R. *Religion & power: Pagans, Jews, and Christians in the Greek East*, New York: 1996.

Component 2: Encyclopaedia Article

You must choose one of the following topics as the subject of your encyclopaedia article:

Polytheism and Monotheism [week 2]

Polytheism (Ancient Rome)

Ritual and Ceremony [week 3]

Ritual performance at Mount Juktas (Crete)

Ritual and Society [week 4]

Lupercalia

Sacred Texts in Ancient Religions [week 5]

Hieroi Logoi (Ancient Greece)

Myth and Religion [week 6]

Cambridge Ritualism

Death, Pollution and Rites of Passage [week 7]

Van Gennep's Rites of Passage

Cosmology, Society and Religion [week 8]

Axis Mundi in Early Cosmology

Religion and Power [week 9]

Dong Zhongshu (c. 179-104 BC)

Religions in Contact [week 10]

Syncretism (Ptolemaic Egypt)

Component 3: Short Essay

You should choose one of the following questions for your short essay:

Polytheism and Monotheism [week 2]

Account for the distinctive emphasis on monotheism in the Abrahamic Faiths.

Ritual and Ceremony [week 3]

Ritual practice might be defined as “prescribed formal behaviour...having reference to beliefs in mystical beings or power” (Turner 1982, 79). How might we identify and interpret evidence for such behaviour in the archaeological record? Illustrate this with reference to specific examples drawn from the Bronze Age Aegean.

Ritual and Society [week 4]

How did the Romans react to omens and prodigies? What light, if any, might Roman attitudes towards prodigies and omens shed on Roman society?

Sacred Texts in Ancient Religions [week 5]

Referring to specific examples from Ancient Greek Religion, analyse the role of orality in Sacred Texts.

Myth and Religion [week 6]

How useful is the *Homeric Hymn to Demeter* for an understanding of the rites of the mystic cult at Eleusis?

Death, Pollution and Rites of Passage [week 7]

Consider how funerary ritual in either Bronze Age Cyprus or Early Minoan Crete might be considered as “a radical devaluation of the deceased’s individuality” (Bloch and Parry, 1982: 11). To what extent might this be because of the link between death, putrescence and pollution?

Cosmology, Society and Religion [week 8]

With respect to Aristotle's *De Caelo* explore the author's understanding of cosmology. Explain the relevance of Mary Douglas when approaching the topic.

Religion and Power [week 9]

Were ritual and cosmology effective means of legitimising empire in Han China?

Religions in Contact [week 10]

In what ways can we assess roots of the conflict between Greek religion and Jewish religion during the reign of Antiochos IV in terms of ideology and types of evidence?