

O'SHEA SHIELD 2026



Guidelines

Religious Questions

Ngā patai whakapono

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To be adjudicated in two sections

1. Teams to consist of three members.
2. The adjudicators will ask questions on the text/s set for the competition. The language of the questions is to be in keeping with the age group, and “Vaticanese” is to be avoided.
3. Each member of the team is expected to contribute answers at some stage during the team’s performance. Team members may **BRIEFLY** confer before replying. A second or third member of the team may offer to add to what another team member has already said. Adjudicators may ask for further elaboration of an answer.
4. Teams will be questioned for up to **9 minutes** (*Delegates’ Meeting 2025*). Two bells will be rung: one at **7 minutes** and one at **9 minutes**. The adjudicators will indicate when they have completed the questions to each team.
5. The Religious Questions material will be available at least three weeks prior to the end of Term One. The material should be preferably one and no more than two documents, no more than 10,000 words in total - about 20 pages.
6. Guidelines for adjudicators: It will be necessary for the four adjudicators (two for each section) to meet before the event to decide upon a set of questions which will be asked in each section – i.e. the same questions will be asked, regardless of the section. These questions will follow a structure of Recall, Understanding and Application.
 - a) Questions should be simply worded.

- b) One question only should be asked at any one time. Questions linked together tend to confuse the candidates.
 - c) Questions should reward thorough study and understanding of the document/s designated. Questions should also reflect the impact and application of the texts on everyday life, especially that which is within the teenagers' experience.
 - d) Questions should move beyond factual recall and require the students to engage in faith-filled thinking relevant to young people.
 - e) Number and type of questions will be reflected in weighting (see attached Marksheet).
 - f) Questions must pertain only to the document/s studied.
7. No coaches or staff members (other than event organisers) are allowed in the holding rooms. The only exception is if a student is ill and requires their teacher. All schools must be in the holding room before the first team starts the event.
8. Adjudicators are reminded that the audience is part of the event, and the questions need to be asked loudly enough so that they can enjoy listening to the participants' answers.
9. The Chairperson will invite each participant to introduce themselves briefly with a mihi before the event begins, in the language that each student is most comfortable in using. This introduction will not be timed and does not form part of the adjudication of the event.

Marks and Awards

The adjudicators' marking schedule has been standardised to totals out of 100.

Trophies will be awarded to the team gaining the highest total marks in each of the two sections.

6 points	Distinction award	Excellent standard	86-100%
5 points	Distinction award	High standard	76-85%
4 points	Merit award	Good standard	66-75%
3 points	Merit award	Average standard	51-65%
2 points	Participation award	Completed, below average	31-50%
1 point	Participation award	Incomplete or inadequate	0-30%

NB: *The attached marksheet has been reviewed by the Kaitiaki Committee, based on feedback from the adjudicators after the 2025 competition.*



Religious Questions *Ngā patai whakapono* Adjudication Sheet

College:

	Maximum Points	Points gained
<p>Recall of Texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall of basic facts about the document 	10	
<p>Understanding of Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of context of when the text was written and why Understanding of themes 	30	
<p>Application of Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of knowledge and understanding to a variety of contexts (eg: societal, cultural, political historical, faith communities, and personal) 	30	
<p>Clarity of Thought and Expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to express clearly and logically an idea in response to the question Communicating this to others clearly 	20	
<p>Teamwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team works together to build a cohesive response to the questions Balanced participation across the team 	10	
<p>Total number of marks gained</p>	100	
<p>Convert to Points 1 – 6</p>		

COMMENTS:

