Studying SOR in Year 12

This is a study guide for both Year 12 Studies of Religion I.

1. Studying Methods



Make your goals CLEAR at the start of study sessions. These can be used for unit revision, practice responses, source memorisation, etc. This helps mentally but also in practice to compartmentalise your ideas.

Core Topics: Taking things one step at a time is an extremely important thing to keep coming back to! Be very mindful of what you choose to do, whether it be focusing on 5 markers for the day, or short answer, or a couple of paragraphs of an extended essay. Be proactive with your time and do what will benefit YOU.

Content Revision: Make sure your methods stay consistent! Simply reading notes or writing a half-baked response will NOT suffice. **Blurting**, **Pomodoro**, and **flashcards** helped me revise for terms I didn't recognise or new concepts.

2. Expanding your Scope for Study



Top band students will always go slightly beyond content and memorise these concepts to take into any exam; this is not necessarily limited to SOR!

- Judicial and correct usage of biblical scripture AND sources to evidence their point. This also extends to making sure your information is coherent and goes towards an argument, rather than being name-dropped.
  - Your sources cannot be name dropped or shoved in for the sake of having them; they **must** give reason to a point you are making.
  - Info-dumping (Band 3/4): Christianity teaches that human life is sacred, which is shown in Genesis 1:27.

    - Argumentative (Band 6): The foundational principle of Imago Dei (Genesis 1:27) establishes the inherent sanctity of human life, directly compelling Christian adherents to... xyz
- Recognising the NESA verbs and correctly answering questions
    - To **analyse** is completely different than to **evaluate**, which is also different than to **discuss**. Adjust your responses accordingly.

3. Common Pitfalls (What should I avoid?)



These are common mistakes I often seen students make. Avoid these traps because they may hinder your ability for successful studying/making the most of your time.

- You should NEVER remember entire essays. This is a massive mistake because the question is always going to be different. You should always be tailoring your facts.
- There is very little room for straight info-dumping; you MUST be able to write argumentatively while also answering the question. Showcase the full extent of what you know! **This is not limited to content.**
- Your notes should properly reflect exactly what the syllabus asks for. Don't get tied into learning random things for the sake of some niche question (e.g. Enduring Questions of Human Existence is one many get tripped up on)

4. Classroom work and Initiative



Being scared or nervous to send your responses to people is normal! But at its core, the HSC is a game that people play as a cohort. You MUST be willing to boost your fellow students up, just as they are for you. Share sources, share responses, start dialogue!

- Remember that giving constructive feedback is a massive priority! Open communication and understanding why particular responses are better than others is a key skill come HSC time
- The beauty of it all is that responses will always improve the more you write, and it helps drive a healthy competitive edge that will ultimately improve class morale.
- **GATEKEEPING IS THE ENEMY OF THE HSC!**

5. Resources to Use



Small section on possible resources that you can study/draw from that helped me during my HSC journey!

- Documents provided from your teachers are excellent for organised information.
- **MODERN NEWS SOURCES** can absolutely add to your information in these subjects!! This includes things like the **Census** for Religion Post-1945, and **Magazines**, **Encyclicals**, and even **Interviews** for modern religious takes

- I personally always made my way back to **the Stems** and their content. This helped me take things one step at a time.