



CONTENT-CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Responding and Composing (English Texts)

There are many opportunities to explore Catholic Church teachings, when engaging with texts in the English curriculum. The key processes of responding to and composing texts are central to students using language purposefully and meaningfully and engaging with a wide range of texts which include: written, spoken, non verbal, visual and media, multimedia and digital texts.

It is of great importance that students are given the opportunity to appreciate other cultures and perspectives. The English curriculum provides opportunities through the study of texts to gain insight into Aboriginal experiences in Australia as well as learn about global perspectives including Asia as well as texts from other countries. These perspectives are very important and can be a wonderful way for students to build tolerance, respect and awareness of different members of the global human family, who are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Students should be given an opportunity to think critically and creatively when composing and responding to texts, which present information, issues and ideas. Catholic Church teachings should be used as a guide to help students question, assess, challenge and reformulate information, which is presented in texts.

Below is a link, to a list of English texts (mainly from the NSW K-10 BOSTES suggested texts) which have been linked to the most relevant Catholic Value, based on the content of the text.

[Document: List of English Texts \(Catholic Values\)](#)

Digital Communication

Search for Truth and Wisdom (God being the source of truth and wisdom)

Media producers have a responsibility toward media consumers. Above all they must truthfully inform. In both the gathering and publication of real news, the rights and dignity of individuals must be observed. The means of social communication should contribute to the establishment of justice, freedom, and solidarity in the world (YouCat # 459).

Many people, especially children, think that whatever they see in the media is real. People who work in the media should always be aware of the fact that their productions have an educational effect (YouCat # 460).

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITIES- CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived on this land, called Australia, for thousands of years. The Catholic Church teaches that all people demand respect because all humans are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). All people, no matter what religion, are bonded because they are all from the one human race. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a very deep respect for the land and this was one very important point that Pope John Paul II raised in his homily to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when he visited Alice Springs in 1986:

"The rock paintings and the discovered evidence of your ancient tools and implements indicate the presence of your age-old culture and prove your ancient occupancy of this land.

(His Holiness Pope John Paul II To The Aborigines And Torres Strait Islanders In Alice Springs, 1986).

Many English texts explore the beliefs and value systems of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Every society builds on a hierarchy of values (YouCat # 324). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are built on respect and justice and it is important that people have a good knowledge and understanding of how these values are integrated into these communities, as God calls everyone to live out these values in their everyday life.

Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia

The Asian region is very diverse in their own cultures. Pope John Paul II recognised this diversity and the rich tradition that these communities hold onto. He writes in his Apostolic Exhortation "Ecclesia in Asia" in 1999:

"Asia is the earth's largest continent and is home to nearly two-thirds of the world's population, with China and India accounting for almost half the total population of the globe. The most striking feature of the continent is the variety of its peoples who are "heirs to ancient cultures, religions and traditions".⁹ We cannot but be amazed at the sheer size of Asia's population and at the intricate mosaic of its many cultures, languages, beliefs and traditions, which comprise such a substantial part of the history and patrimony of the human family.

(Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia in Asia, Apostolic Exhortation on Jesus Christ the Saviour and his mission of love and service in Asia, 1999)

Individuals from the community of Asia, have used God's gift of human intellect, in the authorship of many texts. The opportunities provided by classical and contemporary literature and non fiction texts develop in young people greater awareness, tolerance, compassion and call them to justice. These texts are representative of the rich tradition of the diverse Asian cultures and languages.

Sustainability

Earth's Resources

God's presence in the world (Principle of Stewardship)

Teacher Formation Video/Classroom Resource Video

Description: This video focuses on Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' and its connection to Australia

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Teacher Formation Video/Classroom Resource Video

Description: This video emphasises humanities obligation to be good stewards of all Earthly resources, as these are a gift from God to humanity.

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In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of humankind to take care of them, master them by labour, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race (CCC 2402).

The dominion granted by the Creator over the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be separated from respect for moral obligations, including those toward generations to come (CCC 2456).

Literacy can help to better understand natural and made environments, which is part of God's gift of creation. It is important to not only have knowledge and appreciation of the Earth's resources, but to remember the call from God to be good 'stewards' and ensure that all of humankind have access to these valuable resources.

Social Sustainability

Community and Common Good (Importance of Human Beings in Society)

In God's sight every individual matters in the first place as a person and only then as a social being. Society can never be more important than the individual person. Men and women may never be a means to a societal end. Nevertheless, social institutions such as the State and the family are necessary for the individual (YouCat #322). The human person needs to live in society, as it is a requirement of their nature (CCC 1879).

Every society builds on a hierarchy of values that is put into practice through justice and love. Every society needs constant conversion from unjust structures. Ultimately this is accomplished only by love, the greatest social commandment. It respects others. It demands justice (YouCat #324).

Working for the 'common good' is very important in society. The common good must be the business of everyone. This happens first of all when everyone gets involved in their particular surroundings; family, neighbourhood, workplace and takes responsibility in their actions (YouCat #328).

The common good presupposes; respect for the person, social well being and development of all groups in society and peace (CCC 1907, 1908, 1909).

GENERAL CAPABILITIES-CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Critical and Creative Thinking

Humans are created in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:26-27). God has gifted humans the ability to attain knowledge and ultimately to serve and love God and to offer all creation back to him (CCC 356, 358). Through the gift of human intellect, all human beings have the ability to be critical and creative in their thinking.

English allows people to critically think and be creative when responding to and composing texts. God has gifted each person the ability to distinguish good actions and arguments from bad ones because of human reason and conscience (YouCat #291).

Ethical Understanding

Moral Decision Making

Human acts can be morally evaluated as good or bad. A good human act must satisfy three conditions.

1. The Act itself (CCC 1755)

A bad act can never be morally good, no matter how good the intention is. Some acts are wrong no matter what, such as murder, stealing, lying and cheating.

2. The Person's intention (CCC 1752, 1753)

The intention for the act is important. A good act, can be considered bad, if the intention is not good.

3. The Circumstances (CCC 1754)

The circumstances, which includes the consequences of the act, can make an act better or worse. However, the circumstances cannot change an act from good to bad or bad to good.

Teacher formation Video/Classroom resource video

Description: This video explains the Catholic Church's teaching on the morality of human acts

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Try watching this video on www.youtube.com, or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.



God has given humans the moral law. Humans have the ability through reason to understand and discern. The moral law is for the good of human beings and its origins come from God (CCC 1950-1951). There are many ethical issues contained in many texts. When complex issues arise, it is crucial to look for guidance to the Catholic Church, as God's truth is preserved through the gift of infallibility given to the Magisterium (teaching office) of the Catholic Church. In all human behaviour, there must be unconditional respect for the moral law (CCC 2294).

Information and Communication Technology Capability

Information and communication technology (ICT) is a very valuable tool for students to engage with in the area of English. ICT offers many benefits and Pope Benedict XVI reiterates this important point in his message for the 43rd World Communication day.

"These technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable"

(Message of Pope Benedict XVI for the 43rd World Communication day, "New Technologies, New Relationships", 2009)

Pope Benedict also makes the point in his message for the 43rd World Communication day, that the dignity of the human person has to be upheld in all endeavours.

ICT has a very important role to play in the area of English and it is crucial that all work in this field is ordered towards 'human beings' . (CCC 2293)

Intercultural Understanding

All humans form a unity with each other, as they originate from the one God (CCC 360). All people are created unique, which makes cultures very diverse.

Pope Benedict XVI in his address at the meeting with the World of Culture in 2010, stresses the importance and beauty of valuing the cultures around the world. He states;

"Given the reality of cultural diversity, people need not only to accept the existence of the culture of others, but also to aspire to be enriched by it and to offer to it whatever they possess that is good, true and beautiful"

(Pope Benedict XVI Address at the Meeting with the World of Culture, Bélem, Lisbon, 12 May 2010).

Literature from around the world, allows people to learn and understand about many cultures, such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Asian cultures.

Literacy

Literacy knowledge and skills, such as communication and comprehension is essential for humans, to function successfully in society. Pope Paul VI emphasises the importance of literacy, in his encyclical letter on the development of peoples "Populorum Progressio", stating;

"literacy is the first and most basic tool for personal enrichment and social integration; and it is society's most valuable tool for furthering development and economic progress."

(Pope Paul VI, Populorum Progressio, Encyclical letter on the Development of Peoples, 1967)

Numeracy

Numeracy is the ability to apply mathematics in the world. The study of non fiction and media texts in English often includes numerical literacy, and hence being numerate is of great importance. Competence in numerical literacy allows a deeper analysis of texts and stronger connections with texts and the real world.

Pope Benedict XVI points to the strong ordered relationship between mathematics and the reality of nature, which ultimately points to God, who is the source of all goodness. He writes in his address to young people of the diocese of Rome in 2006;

"that nature is truly structured in a mathematical way, and that our mathematics, invented by our human mind, is truly the instrument for working with nature, to put it at

Personal and Social Capability

God has inscribed on every human heart, a law which can be discovered, deep within one's conscience and this law must be obeyed by every person (CCC 1776). In all interactions and choices made, God calls everyone to do good and avoid evil. God has gifted to everyone free will and people choose they express their opinions and beliefs and how they communicate with others in a variety of contexts, modes and media.

God does call everyone to follow the voice of their conscience but the education of one's conscience is fundamental (CCC 1783). Scripture is essential in the formation of one's conscience as are the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of Catholic Church teachings (CCC 1785).

All of humanity are called to union with God and to love God. The call of love of neighbour is inseparable from love for God (CCC 1878). All interactions with people, have to be grounded in 'love of neighbour' which would foster positive relationships and benefit society.

OTHER AREAS-CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Civics and Citizenship

All human persons need to live in society as this is a requirement, inherent in the nature of human beings. Through dialogue, interactions and service of others, humans develop their potential (CCC 1879). God has gifted talents to each person and each person should contribute to society, as they owe loyalty to the community they are part of and respect those in authority who are in charge of the common good (CCC 1880).

Australian citizens should have an understanding of how Australian society operates as well as learn about prominent Australians and Australian images.

Difference and Diversity

God has made each person unique and the differences and diversity of peoples have to be respected.

All humans are equal in God's sight insofar as all have the same Creator, all were made in the same image of God with a rational soul, and all have the same Redeemer. Every person possesses the same dignity and are entitled to the same human rights. Hence every kind of social, racist, sexist, cultural, or religious discrimination against a person is unacceptable (YouCat #330).

Texts from a variety of cultures, historical times and perspectives allows differences and diversity to be appreciated and studied. In all human actions, the human dignity of persons must be respected and the moral law must be upheld.

Work and Enterprise

Teacher Formation Video

Description: This video focuses on the dignity of work. Pope Francis emphasises the importance of creating opportunities for people to work and always put the dignity of human persons before economic value.

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Work does honour the gifts and talents freely given by God and also does allow for providing financially for each family as well as serving the human community (CCC 2427, 2428).

In the study of English, there are many work related skills which have to be learnt and used such as collaboration and effective communication. Texts

focusing on the workplace context, can help with understanding of workplace demands and therefore can aid with a better preparation for the workplace.