Students in Year 11 have the opportunity to do 3&4 Texts and Traditions, which allows them to obtain a study score whilst fulfilling the RE requirement.

Unit 3: Texts and the early tradition
The texts of a particular religious tradition can be seen to be foundational in that they recount specific events, narratives, laws and teachings that describe the beginnings and initial development of a religious tradition’s history. In this unit, students explore the history and culture from which the tradition being studied was formed. They gain an understanding that the historical milieu of these beginnings lent shape and content to the texts themselves.

Students develop an understanding of how the text is a response to particular contemporary and historical religious and social needs and events. They explore the formation of the text itself, the intended audience of that text and the message or teaching found within the text. As a part of the understanding of the message or teaching of a text, the students also become familiar with the nature of exegetical methods being used by scholars today in the religious tradition of the particular text. One method of textual analysis important to this study is often called socio-historical criticism. It is based on the notion that an understanding of the original social and historical situation of the formation of the text can lead to an understanding of the original intention of the author, as well as the impact on, and understanding of the text by the original audience.

Unit 4: Texts and their teachings
In this unit students continue to apply, in greater depth, the exegetical method to the passages for special study begun in Unit 3. Advice on the set text and passages for special study for this unit can be found at the beginning of Unit 3 on page 21 of the Study Design.

Some texts are regarded as essential for the continuation of a tradition because they function as a means of communicating teachings or understandings about the relationship between the human and the transcendent. These understandings are often expressed through religious ideas, beliefs or social themes in the particular texts.

With the passing of time, some of the themes contained in the foundational texts have been reinterpreted at different times in the tradition. In this unit a significant idea, belief or social theme contained in the set text will be studied, and the interpretation of the text in the light of the idea, belief or theme considered.

Assessment
The award of satisfactory completion for a unit is based on a decision that the student has demonstrated achievement of the set of outcomes specified for the unit. This decision will be based on the teacher’s assessment of the student’s performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit.