**Investigation Assignment**

Assessment 2: Investigation Essay on Topic 5: Beliefs, Rituals, and Mythology

**Either use the topic:** *Compare and contrast the influence of beliefs and rituals of the Law of Moses on Israeli life with the influence of beliefs and rituals of the Phoenicians on Israeli life during the times of the kings.*

**OR**

*Students can choose another topic within the parameters of Topic 5 after teacher preapproval. This can be on any culture.*

**Task Details:**

Students should present their findings in written form as an essay of maximum word length 1000.

Students will need to use hypotheses, focus questions, synthesis and analysis of sources, referencing and subject specific language.

**Specific Skills:**

* Select appropriate sources and evidence by considering their authenticity, relevance, reliability, bias, audience, and context
* Apply inquiry skills to analyse and synthesise evidence
* Argue an informed and persuasive point of view about an idea, innovation, event, person, or aspect of life from the selected society or culture
* Communicate findings in an appropriate form, taking into account the context, purpose, and audience
* Appropriately acknowledge sources.

**Historical Concepts for a Question:**

* examine and explain the contributions of past civilisations to contemporary cultural understandings and perspectives
* analyse evidence of the historical concepts of evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, interpretations, and contestability
* analyse texts to place events in their historical and/or literary context and appreciate that the past can be explained through a variety of narratives and perspectives

**Performance Standards:**

*Knowledge and Understanding:*

KU1 Knowledge and understanding of texts, artefacts, ideas, events, and/or people.

KU2 Recognition of, and reflection on, life in the ancient world, including beliefs, attitudes, and/or values.

*Research and Analysis:*

RA2 Research into and understanding of ideas and innovations that emerged from the ancient world, and consideration of their influence.

*Application:*

A1 Synthesis of evidence and appropriate acknowledgment of sources.

A2 Communication of ideas and arguments, using subject-specific language.

**Factors to consider (Parameters of Topic 5):**

* The influence and significance of beliefs and rituals within ancient societies such as those about death and afterlife concepts and funerary practises, including burial sites and forms of burial.
* The ceremonies of ancient societies and their relationship to religious beliefs and social status. (Phoenician and Israeli ceremonies and their relationship to religious beliefs and social status) and the influence of beliefs, rituals, and mythology on contemporary popular culture.
* The role of cults in religious life. (The role of Phoenician cults (Jezebel/Athaliah’s era) in Israeli religious life and examining the purity of Israeli religious practises).
* Creation, hero and quest myths of ancient societies, for example, explore the challenges undertaken by male characters, and contrast these with the ambiguous roles sometimes assigned to women in myths.

