

Essential Questions for each Lens

The *focus* of each lens and *essential questions*, expanding the core of what we are to *learn about*, designed to be asked of any ACARA curriculum concept. This background thinking provides a springboard into planning meaningful learning experiences

	 CREATION <i>purpose</i> <i>Shalom Formed</i>	 FALL <i>problem</i> <i>Shalom Deformed</i>	 REDEMPTION <i>response</i> <i>Shalom Reformed</i>	 RESTORATION <i>hope</i> <i>Shalom Transformed</i>
FOCUS	How do God’s purposes illuminate this subject, idea or concept?	What went wrong, and how has God’s purpose been distorted?	How does God’s grace save the world and call us to respond in love?	Where is hope found and what would restoration look like?
WISE: learn about	The duty and delight of Work	The promise and peril of Knowledge	Cooperation and Justice enroute to Salvation	The virtues and vision grounding our hope
Essential Qus: GOD	Through studying this subject, what do we learn about God’s purposes and identity as Worker, the creator and sustainer of all that is? How do we partner with the loving community of Father-Son-Spirit in tending and keeping this garden of delight?	Through studying this subject, where are we most prone to idolatry, taking a creational good and making it God? Why is this tempting? What “ultimate concern” drives this field forward, and whose voice carries greatest authority?	Through studying this subject, how is God’s justice and love revealed? What did it cost God to redeem the world? Following Christ’s example, what will it cost us to reform this broken aspect of life?	Through studying this subject, what would restoration of God’s purposes look like? What is God’s vision for this subject? How can you worship God with your whole being through learning in this field?
Essential Qus: OTHERS	Who are our neighbours, and what do they most want and truly love? How do they understand their role and responsibility to cultivate the world?	How have we damaged our relationship with others? What does abuse and alienation look like in this area?	Where are the greatest divides between us and our neighbours? What causes this separation, and how might relationship be salvaged? How might we better cooperate, learning from each other and partnering toward generous justice and reciprocity/equity?	What do my neighbours aim at, as the greatest good of existence? What can I learn from others about virtue, gratitude, imagination, and hopeful action in hard times? How can we pursue genuine unity in diversity, as a foretaste of final reconciliation?
Essential Qus: SELF	What does it mean to be human? Where do God’s purposes, the world’s needs, and my deepest passions and gifts meet in my call as a steward?	In what ways is God’s image marred in me? Who do I trust over God to define what is real, true and of value? Where is autonomy and pride most evident? How does my brokenness show itself in this subject?	What brokenness and sin do I need to confess, and forgiveness do I need to receive, to join God in healing the world? How do I draw on God’s grace to be an agent of reconciliation? What bridges would Jesus have me build to cross the divide?	What kind of person—in character/virtue—must I be to participate in God’s restoration of all things? What is the substance and basis of my hope? How can I be more open to inspiration that empowers my hopeful action in the present?
Essential Qus: CREATION	What is the nature of the world God loves, revealed in the orders of creation? When do I sense delight and wonder? What potential can I work with in culture making for the holistic flourishing of all things?	How have lack of trust and interdependence damaged this endeavour and scarred God’s world? How have our ways of knowing fragmented existence, perverting God’s purposes and damaging shalom? What can we do to minimise deception and truly understand?	At the point of creation’s brokenness, what is a realistic response to overcome evil and save what is real, true and of value? What might salvation of this aspect of the world look like, turning from death to life? How does Christ’s sacrificial way guide our response?	Where have you seen signs of hope in this subject, that love will win and what is true, good, and beautiful will prevail? Imagine: What would this aspect of creation look like, fully alive and flourishing? What picture can you paint, or story can you tell, making this telos tangible right now?