



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - HIGHER LEVEL**

**SAMPLE PAPER**

Total Marks: 320

TIME: 2 ½ hours

*General Directions for Candidates*

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING:

- **ONE QUESTION FROM UNIT ONE**
- **TWO QUESTIONS FROM UNIT TWO**
- **ONE QUESTION FROM UNIT THREE**

## UNIT ONE

(80 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ATTEMPT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

### SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

#### Question 1.



*Snark International*

Imagine you can speak with Plato about life's great questions as they feature in the world today.

- a. What questions do you think he would focus on?  
(40 marks)
- b. What do you think he would say to you about these questions?  
(40 marks)

#### Question 2.

- Christianity      ● Islam      ● Judaism

- a. Briefly describe the concept of God in **one** of the above world religions.  
(40 marks)
- b. Explain how this concept has implications for the moral values by which people live in this religious tradition.  
(40 marks)



## UNIT TWO

(160 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ATTEMPT **TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING THREE SECTIONS.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

### SECTION B CHRISTIANITY: ORIGINS AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS

Describe how Jesus is understood and represented in contemporary culture. Assess to what extent this representation is true to the historical life of Jesus.

(80 marks)

### SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

*Yet sometimes when the sun comes  
through a gap  
These men know God the Father in  
a tree.*

– Patrick Kavanagh

This quotation expresses a sense of the sacred in the ordinary things of life. Discuss the relationship between “sacred” and “profane” in **one** of the following religious traditions:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism

(80 marks)

### SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

“God is love and whoever lives in love lives in union with God and God lives in union with him.”      “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”      “God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.”

(1 John 4:16 *Good News Bible*)

(1 John 4:16 *New Revised Standard Version*)

(1 John 4:16 *The Jerusalem Bible*)

Outline Jesus’ understanding of the law of love and trace its influence on the understanding of sin and reconciliation in **one** Christian denomination.

(80 marks)

## UNIT THREE

(80 marks)

**YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.**

**YOU MUST ATTEMPT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SECTIONS.**

**(All questions carry 80 marks each)**

### SECTION E RELIGION AND GENDER

*An examination of sacred texts shows that in principle religions carry an essential message of equality.*

Investigate the accuracy of this statement with reference to the role of men and women in **one** of the following world religions:

- Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism

(80 marks)

### SECTION F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

a Compare the understanding of justice and peace in **two** of the following world religions:

- Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism (40 marks)

b Outline how the understanding of justice and peace in any **one** of the above world religions can influence a person's response to -

i. A situation of violence

*or*

ii. An environmental issue

(40 marks)

### SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

Outline how redaction criticism has contributed to the understanding of the synoptic gospels.

(80 marks)



*Fourth Estate Ltd*

The NASA website reports that in 1971 the Apollo 15 astronauts dropped a hammer and a feather in the near-vacuum of the moon. The two objects plummeted to the lunar surface, untroubled by air resistance, and landed at precisely the same moment, proving Galileo correct, 328 years after his death.

Assess the significance of any **one** of Galileo's discoveries for the relationship between science and religion.

(80 marks)

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