



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - ORDINARY LEVEL

DRAFT SAMPLE PAPER

Total Marks: 320

TIME: 2 hours

General Directions for Candidates

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING:

- **TWO** QUESTIONS 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 TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS.

(All questions carry 40 marks each)

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

QUESTION 1. PHILOSOPHY

- a. What does the term “philosophy” mean? (15 marks)
- b. Name **one** ancient Greek who has contributed to the development of philosophy. (10 marks)
- c. Briefly outline **one** philosophical idea of the person you have named. (15 marks)

QUESTION 2. MYTH AND THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

“In the ancient world myths gave people answers to key questions in the search for meaning.”

- a. Briefly outline **one** ancient myth that provided an answer to **one** key question in the search for meaning. (20 marks)
- b. Explain how the myth you have outlined gives an answer to this key question of meaning. (20 marks)

QUESTION 3. GOD AND THE GODS

- a. What does the term “polytheism” mean? (15 marks)
- b. Name **one** religion that is an example of polytheism. (10 marks)
- c. Briefly outline the way in which the religion you have named is an example of polytheism. (15 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 - KINGDOM OF GOD

- a. Outline the Jewish understanding of the Kingdom of God at the time of Jesus. (30 marks)
- b. Jesus gave people a new understanding of the Kingdom of God through the parables he taught. Outline **one** such parable. (20 marks)
- c. Explain the understanding of the Kingdom of God in the parable you have outlined. (30 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS - RITES OF INITIATION

- a. What is a rite of initiation? (20 marks)
- b. Describe **one** rite of initiation in *either* Judaism *or* Christianity. (30 marks)
- c. Explain the symbolism of **one** ritual associated with this rite. (30 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING - VALUES AND CODES

- a. Outline the difference between a personal value and a community value. (20 marks)
- b. Outline **one** moral code or charter that maintains a balance between personal and community values. (30 marks)
- c. Explain how this balance between personal and community values can be seen in the code you have outlined above. (30 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

It has been suggested that men and women have not always been treated equally in religion.

Using an example of a person or group you have studied, discuss whether this suggestion is correct.

(80 marks)

SECTION F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

a. Outline the key principles of the Just War Theory. (40 marks)

b. Select the principle you think is most useful and explain why. (40 marks)

SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

“Like all good stories the story of Job has something in it for everyone.”

a. Outline the story of Job in your own words. (40 marks)

b. Explain what you think is most valuable in it for the modern reader. (40 marks)

SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

a. Identify **one** way in which Darwin’s theory of evolution was seen to be in conflict with any one religious understanding of creation. (40 marks)

b. Describe how **one** community of faith responded to this perceived conflict. (40 marks)

Blank Page

Blank Page

Blank Page

Blank Page