



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
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S93/14

To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools

**Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Journal Work
for Junior Certificate 2015 and 2016**

1. A new syllabus for Religious Education was introduced in September 2000 and was examined for the first time in the Junior Certificate examination of 2003.
2. The syllabus indicates that the assessment of Religious Education will have two elements – (1) a final written paper, and (2) journal work. The titles for journal work for the Junior Certificate examination of 2015 were issued with Circular S92/13. The titles for journal work for the Junior Certificate examination of 2016 are attached, as are the titles for 2015.
3. These titles are common to Ordinary Level and Higher Level. Candidates are required to submit journal work on **one title only**.
4. The subject will be assessed externally at Ordinary Level and at Higher Level. **At both levels, journal work will account for 20% of the marks. Please note that this mark allocation supersedes that given in the syllabus for Religious Education.**
5. In undertaking journal work candidates may work in groups or undertake a visit or investigation as a whole class. However, each candidate must complete and submit an individual journal for assessment.
6. Guidelines for undertaking journal work are included in *Religious Education - Guidelines for Teachers* which was issued in June 2001.
7. The journal work must be submitted in a standard form in a booklet which will be supplied for that purpose by the State Examinations Commission. Candidates taking the examination in 2015 will be supplied with the booklet in 2014. Candidates taking the examination in 2016 will be supplied with the booklet in 2015.
8. Please bring this circular and the attached lists of journal work titles to the notice of the teachers concerned.
9. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Philomena Mulvihill
Staff Officer
December 2014

Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Journal Work

for the Junior Certificate Examination 2015

Two titles are given for each section of the syllabus. Candidates are required to submit journal work on **one title only**. Candidates may select any **one** from the following list of journal work titles:

Section A. Communities of Faith

- a. 1. A profile of the role a religious leader plays in **one** community of faith in Ireland today.
- a. 2. A case study on the way in which **one** religious organisation is helping people in need today.

Section B. Foundations of Religion – Christianity

- b. 1.
 - THE FORGIVENESS OF SINNERS ● THE SPECIAL PLACE OF THE POOR ● LOVE OF ENEMYAn examination of Jesus' teaching on **two** of the characteristics of the Kingdom of God listed above and its implications for the lives of Christians today.
- b. 2. A profile of how Jesus' Jewish background can be seen in **one** of the following:
 - THE GOSPEL OF JOHN ● THE GOSPEL OF LUKE ● THE GOSPEL OF MARK
 - THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Section C. Foundations of Religion – Major World Religions

- c. 1. A study of the historical background to the founding story of **one** of the following major world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism.
- c. 2. Research into the influence a moral code has on the lifestyle of believers in **one** of the following major world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism.

Section D. The Question of Faith

- d. 1. An investigation into how questions about the meaning of life are approached from the secular humanist point of view.
- d. 2. Research into the factors that have contributed to the development of **two** different images of God.

Section E. The Celebration of Faith

- e. 1. An investigation into the role participation and ritual play as elements of worship.
- e. 2. An examination of the religious beliefs expressed in a symbol associated with **one** of the following major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism.

Section F. The Moral Challenge

- f. 1. An evaluation of the importance placed on stewardship in the teaching of **two** of the following major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism.
- f. 2. An examination of the methods by which a world religion offers its members opportunities for reconciliation.

**Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Journal Work
for the Junior Certificate Examination 2016**

Two titles are given for each section of the syllabus. Candidates are required to submit journal work on **one title only**. Candidates may select any **one** from the following list of journal work titles:

Section A. Communities of Faith

- a. 1. An examination of how preaching is used by *either* **two** Churches *or* **two** religious orders in Ireland today to express and share their view of life.
- a. 2. A profile of how the ecumenical movement in Ireland today promotes respect for religious belief among the members of different Christian denominations.

Section B. Foundations of Religion – Christianity

- b. 1. *Palestine at the time of Jesus was part of the Roman Empire.*
An assessment of the ways that living in part of the Roman Empire impacted on the life of Jesus as outlined in the Gospels.
- b. 2. A comparison between **one** of the first Christian communities and a Christian community today, in terms of their faith, worship and way of life.

Section C. Foundations of Religion – Major World Religions

- c. 1. ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM
Research into the development of **one** of the world religions listed above making reference to the number of members living in Ireland today and the distribution of members in other parts of the world.
- c. 2. ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM
A profile of how a sacred text that is associated with **one** of the world religions listed above came to be in its present form.

Section D. The Question of Faith

- d. 1. An investigation into the reasons why questions about the meaning of life are of interest to adolescents today.
- d. 2. An analysis of the role religious belief can play in finding answers to questions about the meaning of life today.

Section E. The Celebration of Faith

- e. 1. An examination of the similarities between **two** places in Ireland that have religious importance for people today.
- e. 2. A study of the nature and function of penitence as a form of prayer for members of a religious tradition.

Section F. The Moral Challenge

- f. 1. An investigation into the way that a person's judgment of right and wrong can develop as he/she grows from moral immaturity to moral maturity.
- f. 2. An analysis of how a person's freedom of choice could influence his/her understanding of what it means to be moral.