



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
State Examinations Commission  
**Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí**  
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Teileafón: +353-90-644 2746. Fax: +353-90-647 3080. Web: [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie). E-mail: [info@examinations.ie](mailto:info@examinations.ie)

**S89/15**

**To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools**

**Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Journal Work  
for Junior Certificate 2016 and 2017**

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 2016 were issued with Circular S93/14. The titles for journal work for the Junior Certificate examination of 2017 are attached, as are the titles for 2016.
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 2016 will be supplied with the booklet in 2015. Candidates taking the examination in 2017 will be supplied with the booklet in 2016.
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 2015

**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.

**Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Journal Work  
for the Junior Certificate Examination 2017**

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 how the members of a Christian denomination today are promoting tolerance and respect for the religious beliefs of another major world religion.
- a. 2. An analysis of the way that the inspiring vision of a community of faith is expressed by a religious organisation in Ireland today.

**Section B. Foundations of Religion – Christianity**

- b. 1. An investigation into the impact that the resurrection of Jesus had on **two** of his disciples as recorded in the Gospels.
- b. 2. A study of the similarities and differences between the account of Jesus' life given in a historical source and that given in a Gospel.

**Section C. Foundations of Religion – Major World Religions**

- c. 1.           ◆ BUDDHISM   ◆ HINDUISM   ◆ ISLAM   ◆ JUDAISM  
Research into the way people lived and the religious beliefs that were popular in the part of the world where **one** of the religions listed above was founded.
- c. 2.           ◆ BUDDHISM   ◆ HINDUISM   ◆ ISLAM   ◆ JUDAISM  
A case study on the ways that a time of religious importance is marked each year by the members of **one** of the religions listed above.

**Section D. The Question of Faith**

- d. 1. *Religious belief can find expression in prayer, worship and way of life.*  
An examination of the evidence for this statement in the life of a person of faith associated with the story of a major world religion that you have studied.
- d. 2. A survey of the factors that influence the religious beliefs of teenagers in a locality in Ireland today.

**Section E. The Celebration of Faith**

- e. 1. *Religious icons have been described as symbolic paintings.*  
A case study on the purpose and main features of **one** such religious icon associated with a community of faith today.
- e. 2. *Prayer - a need to communicate with God.*  
A reflection on the role that petition plays as a form of prayer for the members of a major world religion today.

**Section F. The Moral Challenge**

- f. 1. An examination of the influence that a religious moral code has on the lifestyle of teenagers today.
- f. 2. An exploration of the process a morally mature person goes through in deciding what is right or wrong in a particular situation.