



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - HIGHER LEVEL

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2008 - MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

Total Marks: 320

General Directions for Candidates

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING:

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

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

YOU MUST ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS.

(All questions carry 80 marks each)

SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES

Question 1.

Answer a) and b).

a) *From ancient times people have asked questions about the goal and purpose of life.*

Outline **two** points from Socrates' thinking on the goal and purpose of life.

(40 marks)

b) Describe how questions about the goal and purpose of life would be answered from **each** of the following points of view:

● Agnosticism

● Reductionism

(40 marks)

Question 2.

Answer a) and b).

a) Describe the understanding of divine revelation found in **two** major world religions you have studied.

(40 marks)

b) Outline how **two** religious practices are influenced by the understanding of divine revelation found in one major world religion you have studied.

(40 marks)



UNIT TWO

(160 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

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

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

SECTION B CHRISTIANITY: ORIGINS AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) Assess the evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth presented in the writings of **two** of the following:

● JOSEPHUS ● PLINY THE YOUNGER ● SAINT PAUL ● TACITUS

(40 marks)

- b) Outline **one** way in which work done by a Christian denomination today carries on the mission of Jesus.

(40 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) Compare the way in which the community of believers is structured in **two** of the following major world religions:

Buddhism



Christianity



Hinduism



Islam



Judaism



(40 marks)

- b) Outline the origins and main religious practices of **one** of the following:

●
African Traditional Religion

●
A New Religious Movement

●
Baha'i Faith

●
Chinese Religion

●
Sikh Religion

(40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

Answer a) and b).

- a) Describe the stages of moral development outlined by **one** moral theorist you have studied.

(40 marks)

- b) Examine the approach taken to making moral decisions in **two** of the following moral philosophies / theories:

●
Deontological Ethics

●
Hedonism

●
Natural Law

●
Right Relationship

●
Teleological Ethics

●
Utilitarianism

●
Virtue Ethics

(40 marks)

UNIT THREE

(80 marks)

YOU SHOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES COMPLETING THIS UNIT.

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

(All sections carry 80 marks each)

SECTION E RELIGION AND GENDER

Answer *either a) or b).*

a) Profile the development of feminist spiritualities.

(80 marks)

or

b) i. Outline **three** characteristics that feminist theologies have in common.

(30 marks)

ii. Examine the relationship between feminist theologies and **one** Christian denomination you have studied.

(50 marks)

SECTION F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Discuss the role of dialogue in resolving **one** conflict situation you have studied.

(80 marks)



SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

Answer *either a) or b).*

a) Assess the evidence for describing the Bible as both a classic text and a sacred text.

(80 marks)

or

b) Analyse **two** issues that are central to the synoptic problem.

(80 marks)

SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

Answer a) and b).

- a) Outline the main trends in the pattern of religious belief and practice in Ireland today. (40 marks)
- b) Discuss the influence of secularisation on the pattern of religious belief and practice in Ireland today. (40 marks)

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