



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2017

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – HIGHER LEVEL

FRIDAY, 23 JUNE – AFTERNOON, 2.00 to 4.30

Total Marks: 320

General Directions for Candidates

CANDIDATES MUST ANSWER 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 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) i. Name a key person in the humanist tradition and describe the approach taken by him/her to the human search for the meaning of life. (20 marks)
- ii. Outline how the human search for the meaning of life can be seen in a sacred artefact associated with an ancient culture that you have studied. (20 marks)
- b) Describe **two** examples of how the understanding of divine revelation in different major world religions is reflected in the way believers treat their sacred texts. (40 marks)



(Source: gograph.com)

Question 2.

Answer a) and b).

- a) *People express ideas about God in different ways:*

● ART



● FILM



● MUSIC



(Source: ClipartFest & ClipartFox)

Compare the understanding of God expressed in a modern image from **one** of the above with the understanding of God found in a long-established image from a major world religion.

(40 marks)

- b) ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM

Profile the connection between the understanding of the transcendent/God and how the human person is understood in the teaching of **two** of the above world religions.

(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) ● AN EVANGELIST ● JOSEPHUS ● PLINY ● SAINT ● TACITUS
(Matthew or Mark or Luke or John) THE YOUNGER PAUL

Compare the importance of the writings of **two** of the above as sources of historical evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth. (40 marks)

- b) Outline the particular understanding of Jesus that is emphasised for Christians today by **two** writers of books about Christology. (40 marks)



(Source: Softkey Multimedia Inc.)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) Profile the origins and implications of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism using **one** of the following headings:

● A CELEBRATING TRADITION

● THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS (40 marks)

- b) ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM

Examine the main forms and purpose of inter-faith dialogue between **two** of the world religions listed above. (40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION – MAKING

Answer a) and b).

- a) ● THE HEBREWS ● THE GREEKS ● THE ROMANS

Outline how a moral issue caused concern for the members of **two** of the above ancient civilisations. (40 marks)



(Source: ClipArtBest)

- b) Profile how a balance between personal and community values is expressed in **two** different charters that you have studied. (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 a) and b).

- a) ● BIOLOGY ● PHILOSOPHY ● PSYCHOLOGY ● SOCIOLOGY

Discuss the influence that **two** of the above have had on the changing roles of men and women in society today.

(40 marks)

- b) ● FOUNDERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS ● RELIGIOUS WRITERS ● SOCIAL REFORMERS ● SPIRITUAL THINKERS

Compare how the work of **two** women, from different categories listed above, contributed to the development of their religious traditions.

(40 marks)

SECTION F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Answer a) and b).

- a) ● THE EIGHTFOLD PATH OF BUDDHISM ● THE JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN VISION OF JUSTICE ● THE FOUR VARNAS OF HINDUISM ● THE ZAKAT OF ISLAM

Explain how the religious beliefs expressed in **two** of the above could influence believers to work for justice today.

(40 marks)

- b) Profile how the 'Just War' theory shows an understanding of war as evil and tries to balance this with the principle of self-defence.

(40 marks)



SECTION G WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL

Answer a) and b).

- a) Outline the similarities and differences between Buddhist and Christian meditation using **each** of the following headings:

- i. The origins of meditation as a form of prayer. (20 marks)
- ii. Meditation techniques used in worship. (20 marks)

- b) Examine the role that ritual and symbol play in the way 'sacrament' is celebrated within **two** Christian denominations.

(40 marks)

SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

Answer a) and b).

- a) ● THE TRANSFIGURATION ● THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN ● THE PROLOGUE
(Mark 9:2-13) (Luke 6:20-49) (John 1:1-18)

Compare **two** of the New Testament texts listed above using **each** of the following headings:

- i. The literary genre/type. (20 marks)
ii. The original background/context. (20 marks)

- b) Profile the role that redaction criticism plays in the study of the Synoptic Gospels. (40 marks)



(Source: www.clipartkid.com)

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