



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2016

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION — HIGHER LEVEL

FRIDAY, 24 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**

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) *People often express their search for the meaning of life using different symbols.*
Referring to **two** examples that you have studied, explain why people often use symbols to express their search for the meaning of life. (40 marks)
- b) Profile **one** example of how a monotheistic understanding of God developed in a context where polytheism was widespread. (40 marks)

Question 2.

Answer a) and b).

- a) Did God create the world?

Explain how a modern scientific theory about how the universe began could influence a person's response to the question above. (40 marks)

- b) *Imagine that you are taking part in a debate where people are discussing questions about the meaning of life.*
Examine how such questions would be addressed from **two** of the following points of view:
● AGNOSTICISM ● REDUCTIONISM ● SECULAR HUMANISM (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) Examine what inspires the understanding of Jesus that is portrayed in **two** images of Jesus found in any of the following:

● ART ● FILM ● LITERATURE ● MUSIC (40 marks)

- b) Choose **one** of the Early Christian communities listed below and profile how the lifestyle of its members was influenced by their understanding of Jesus and the meaning of his life.

● CORINTH ● PHILIPPI ● THESSALONICA (40 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) Examine how authority is structured for the community of believers in **two** of the following world religions:

◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (40 marks)

- b) Choose **two** of the world religions listed below and compare how a religious ceremony every year marks an important event from each of their founding stories.

◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION - MAKING

Answer a) and b).

- a) Profile how Jesus' preaching on the law of love and right relationship can be seen today in the teaching of a Christian denomination about a moral issue. (40 marks)

- b) Name **one** moral theorist that you have studied and outline what is involved in his/her theory of moral development from childhood to adulthood. (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 F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Answer a) and b).

a)



World Religions:

BUDDHISM —



ISLAM —



JUDAISM —

Teachings:

THE FIVE

VICEREGENT OF

SABBATH, SCHMITTAH

PRECEPTS

THE EARTH

& JUBILEE

Outline what is involved in the teachings of **two** of the world religions listed above, referring to how each impacts on the lifestyle of believers.

(40 marks)

b) Discuss the effectiveness of non-violence as lifestyle and non-violence as protest in bringing peace to **one** conflict situation that you have studied.

(40 marks)

SECTION G WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL

Answer a) and b).

a)

● HERMITAGE ● PILGRIMAGE ● POUSTINIA ● RETREAT

Profile the development of **two** of the above contemplative practices, from the way in which each began to the way in which each is practised today.

(40 marks)

b) Discuss the role a mystical form of prayer plays in a major world religion today, making reference to the work of **one** mystic that you have studied.

(40 marks)

SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

Answer a) and b).

a) Outline **one** example of *either* local *or* national archaeological evidence of religious belief and practice in Pre-Christian Ireland. (40 marks)

b) Examine the changing pattern of religious belief in Europe today, making reference to the influence of secularisation and secularism.

(40 marks)



SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Answer a) and b).

a)

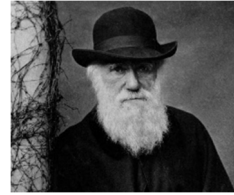


(Source: philosophers.co.uk)

Examine the impact that any **one** of Descartes' ideas had on the relationship between religion and science.

(40 marks)

b) Profile **one** religious reaction that there was to Darwin's ideas when his theory of evolution was first published.



(Source: popsci.com)

(40 marks)

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