



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2019

Religious Education

Higher Level

Friday 21 June Afternoon 2:00 – 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) *Imagine the Sophists of Ancient Greece were advertising courses in philosophy.*

Based on your knowledge of the Sophists outline what you think they would say about philosophy and the purpose it serves in the lives of people.

(40 marks)

b) *Since ancient times people have used rites to mark key moments in life –*

● RITE OF BURIAL

● RITE OF INITIATION & PASSAGE

Explain how evidence of religious belief can be seen in **each** of the above rites associated with people who lived in ancient times.

(40 marks)

QUESTION 2.

Answer a) and b).

a) *Experiences in life can be understood in different ways -*

● THE AESTHETIC

● THE PROPHETIC

Using examples, explain how a relationship with God/gods/the divine can be expressed in **each** of the above ways of interpreting human experience.

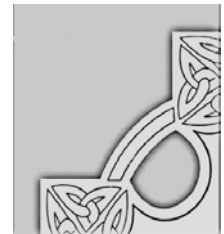
(40 marks)

b) ● ATHEISM

● REDUCTIONISM

Compare the approach that would be taken by **each** of the above points of view to answering a question about the meaning of life.

(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) i. Explain **two** reasons why the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth would have posed a threat for the Roman rulers in Palestine. (20 marks)
- ii. Examine why the Jewish authorities in Palestine were challenged by the actions of Jesus of Nazareth. (20 marks)
- b) Compare the understanding of Jesus that is emphasised by a writer of books about Christology with the way Jesus is portrayed in the Gospels. (40 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Describe **two** ideas that are particularly associated with primal religion. (20 marks)
- ii. Explain how the influence of **two** ideas associated with primal religion can be seen in a major world religion that you have studied. (20 marks)
- b) Choose **one** world religion from List A and **one** world religion from List B below:
LIST A: ♦ CHRISTIANITY ♦ JUDAISM LIST B: ♦ BUDDHISM ♦ HINDUISM ♦ ISLAM
Compare the role being part of a community plays in the lives of believers within the world religions that you have chosen above. (40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

Answer a) and b).

- a) ● CRIME AND PUNISHMENT ● MEDICAL ETHICS ● POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
● RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY ● VIOLENCE

Examine how Jesus' teaching on 'right relationship' would influence Christians in deciding what is right or wrong about **two** of the issues listed above. (40 marks)

- b) *Individual rights need to be balanced with the common good.*
Assess the evidence for this statement making reference to **one** example from *either* Irish civil law *or* an international charter. (40 marks)



(Source: Softkey Multimedia Inc.)

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) i. Outline what is meant by the 'greening' of religion and the factors that have played a part in this process. (20 marks)
- ii. Profile how care for the environment is being promoted by **one** religious group/organisation today. (20 marks)
- b) *Justice can be understood as* — ● FAIR PLAY ● RETRIBUTION
- Explain the particular strengths and weaknesses that **each** of the above understandings of justice have in promoting good relationships between people. (40 marks)

SECTION G WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Describe the origins of **one** traditional Christian prayer and the way it is used in Christian worship today. (20 marks)
- ii. Compare how Christians worship using the prayer described in *part a i)* above with the way believers pray in **one** of the following world religions:
◆ BUDDHISM ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (20 marks)
- b) Profile how the spiritual dimension of life was emphasised in the life and work of a mystic associated with **one** of the following world religions:
◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (40 marks)

SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. Describe **one** example of how adapting Pre-Christian religious practices influenced the growth of Christianity in Ireland at the time of Saint Patrick. (20 marks)
- ii. Outline **one** distinctive way in which 'Irish Christianity' developed in the centuries immediately after the time of Saint Patrick. (20 marks)
- b) i. Explain the difference between secularism and secularisation. (10 marks)
- ii. Discuss the impact of secularism and secularisation on the pattern of religious practice in Ireland today. (30 marks)

SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Answer a) and b).



(Source: www.bobhaa.com)

Compare how the ecological crisis is viewed from the perspectives of a theologian and a scientist, making reference to what **each** see as —

- i. The origins of the crisis. (20 marks)
 - ii. The main features of the crisis. (20 marks)
- b) Discuss the extent to which religion and science share an interest in particular questions and certain methods of interpretation. (40 marks)

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