



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - ORDINARY LEVEL

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2008 - MORNING, 9.30 to 11.30

Total Marks: 320

### *General Directions for Candidates*

CANDIDATES MUST ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING:

- **TWO** QUESTIONS 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 TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS.**

**(All questions carry 40 marks each)**

**SECTION A THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND VALUES**

**QUESTION 1. THE SENSE OF THE SACRED**

**Answer a) and b).**

*A sense of the sacred, the divine, the holy can help people find meaning in society today.*

- a) Describe **one** example of where a sense of the sacred can be seen in the way people live today. (20 marks)
- b) Explain how a sense of the sacred could help a person searching for the meaning of life today. (20 marks)

**QUESTION 2. THE RESPONSE TO THE SEARCH FOR MEANING**

**Answer a) and b).**

- a) Describe what each of the following terms mean:
  - i. Agnosticism. (10 marks)
  - ii. Atheism. (10 marks)
- b) Examine the ways in which atheism could influence a person’s search for the meaning of life. (20 marks)



**QUESTION 3. THE CONCEPT OF REVELATION**

**Answer a) and b).**

- a)
  - i. In religious traditions what does the term ‘divine revelation’ mean? (10 marks)
  - ii. Describe **one** example of divine revelation found in a major world religion you have studied. (10 marks)
- b) Outline **one** example of how religious practice is influenced by the understanding of divine revelation found in a major world religion you have studied. (20 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), b) and c).

- a) There are many sources of evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth. Examine the evidence for the existence of Jesus that can be found in the writings of each of the following:
- i. Pliny the Younger. (10 marks)
  - ii. Tacitus. (10 marks)
- b) Explain why the writings of **one** of the following are an important source of evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth.
- An Evangelist – Matthew *or* Mark *or* Luke *or* John
  - Saint Paul
  - Josephus
- (20 marks)
- c) Outline the ways in which the resurrection of Jesus influenced his disciples' sense of mission. (40 marks)

### SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a), b) and c).

- a) Primal religion has many unique features such as -
- Mana
  - Shaman
  - Tabu
  - Totem
- Describe what is meant by **two** of the above in primal religion. (20 marks)
- b) i. Describe what is meant by the term 'inter-faith' dialogue. (10 marks)
- ii. ◆ Buddhism ◆ Christianity ◆ Hinduism ◆ Islam ◆ Judaism
- Outline an example of inter-faith dialogue that involves **two** of the above major world religions. (20 marks)
- c) ◆ Buddhism ◆ Hinduism ◆ Islam
- Compare the way in which an important moment in life is celebrated in **one** of the above major world religions with the way it is celebrated in *either* Christianity *or* Judaism. (30 marks)

### SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

Answer a), b) and c).

- a) ● Personal Sin ● Social Sin
- Describe what is meant by **one** of the above forms of moral failure and give an example of what it involves. (20 marks)
- b) Outline the understanding of reconciliation in **one** Christian denomination you have studied. (30 marks)
- c) Compare the understanding of moral failure in a Christian denomination with the way it is understood in **one** non-Christian world religion you have studied. (30 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) or b) or c) or d).

- a) Profile the roles played in Hebrew salvation history by *either two men or two women* whose story is told in the Hebrew Scriptures. (80 marks)
- or*
- b) Profile the roles played by men and women in **one** early Christian community described in *either* The Acts of the Apostles *or* The Letters of Saint Paul. (80 marks)
- or*
- c) Profile the way in which the portrayal of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the Gospels influences the role of men and women in **one** Christian denomination. (80 marks)
- or*
- d) Profile the way in which *either* empowerment *or* freedom for men and women has been promoted by **one** Christian denomination. (80 marks)

### SECTION F ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Answer a) and b).

- a) World religions teach about justice and peace in different ways -
- The Eightfold Path of Buddhism
  - The Four Varnas of Hinduism
  - The Judaeo – Christian Tradition
  - The Zakat of Islam
- Outline the understanding of justice and peace found in **two** of the above. (40 marks)
- b) ◆ Buddhism ◆ Christianity ◆ Hinduism ◆ Islam ◆ Judaism
- Describe the way in which the teaching of **two** of the above world religions encourages care for the environment. (40 marks)

### SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

Answer a) and b).

- a)
- The Transfiguration (Mark: 9:2-13)
  - The Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49)
  - The Prologue (John 1:1-18)
- Choose **one** of the texts from the New Testament listed above and describe it using the following headings:
- i. The text's genre/type. (20 marks)
  - ii. What the text says about the relationship between God and people. (20 marks)
- b) Outline what was involved in **two** different stages in the writing of *either* the Hebrew Scriptures *or* the Gospels. (40 marks)

**Answer a) and either b) i or ii.**

Ireland has many archaeological sites that show evidence of religious beliefs and practices in pre-Christian times.

- a) Outline the ways in which **one** place in Ireland shows evidence of religious belief and/or practice in pre-Christian times.

(40 marks)

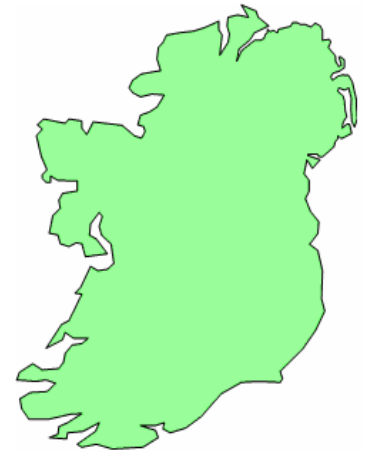
- b) i. Examine how *either* **one** Irish myth *or* **one** Irish saga shows evidence of religious belief and/or practice in pre-Christian times.

(40 marks)

*or*

- ii. Examine how **one** religious practice found in Ireland today can be traced back to pre-Christian times.

(40 marks)



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