



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - HIGHER LEVEL

FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2009 - MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

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) *Ancient myths and rites show that people of all times have asked questions about the meaning of life.*

Investigate the way in which *either one myth or one rite* shows evidence that people in ancient times questioned the meaning of life. (40 marks)

- b) Outline **two** examples of how experiences in life today could make a person question the meaning of life. (40 marks)

Question 2.

Answer a) and b).

- a) Outline the approach taken by **two** key people in the humanist tradition to the human search for the meaning of life. (40 marks)

- b) *People often use images to express their ideas about God.*
Describe **two** images of God which you have studied and outline the understanding of God that is expressed in each image. (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. At the time of Jesus people had different expectations of the Messiah -
- Davidic
 - Priestly
 - Prophetic
- Outline what was involved in **two** of the above expectations of the Messiah. (20 marks)
- ii. Describe an example of how Jesus showed an awareness of **one** of the expectations of the Messiah listed in part a)i above. (20 marks)
- b) Explain how the resurrection of Jesus influenced the first disciples' understanding of Jesus and their sense of community. (40 marks)

SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS

Answer a) and b).

- a) i. ● Profane ● Sacred
- Describe the meaning of each of the above terms in a religious tradition you have studied. (20 marks)
- ii. Outline how people express the relationship between the sacred and profane using **one** example of an object associated with a religion. (20 marks)
- b) *Times past are frequently recalled and celebrated in religious festivals.*
- ◆ Buddhism
 - ◆ Hinduism
 - ◆ Islam
- Compare the celebration of such a religious festival in **one** of the above major world religions with the way in which an event from the founding story is marked in *either* Christianity *or* Judaism. (40 marks)

SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING

Answer a) and b).

- a) ● Capital Punishment ● Child Labour ● Slavery ● War
- Choose **two** of the issues listed above and outline the way in which there has been a change over the course of time in the understanding of what is right and wrong in each issue. (40 marks)
- b) ● Civil Authority ● Religious Authority
- Discuss the relationship between a person's conscience and **one** of the above in deciding what is right and wrong in an issue 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

Women have contributed to their religious traditions in a number of ways –

- FOUNDERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS
- RELIGIOUS WRITERS
- SOCIAL REFORMERS
- SPIRITUAL THINKERS

Compare the ways in which **two** women in any of the above categories have contributed to the development of their religious traditions. (80 marks)

SECTION G WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL

Answer *either* a) *or* b).

- a) ● Hermitage ● Pilgrimage ● Poustinia ● Retreat

Describe the origins of **two** of the above contemplative practices and discuss the importance of each for the way people live out their religious faith today. (80 marks)

or

- b) Compare what is involved in meditation for members of the Buddhist and Christian traditions. (80 marks)

SECTION H THE BIBLE: LITERATURE AND SACRED TEXT

Answer a) and b).

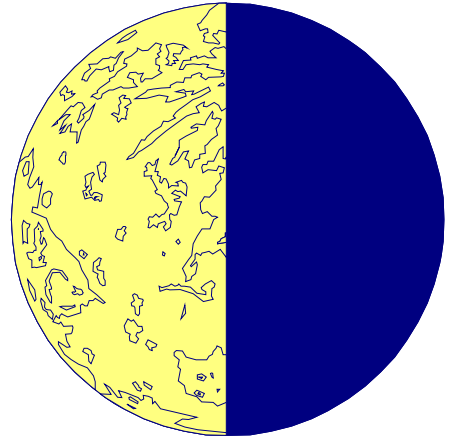
- a) *The Psalms have been described as poetry.*

Examine the evidence for this statement with reference to **two** Psalms from the Bible that you have studied. (40 marks)

- b) Discuss the importance of the Psalms as a type of literature in the Bible for members of *either* the Jewish *or* Christian traditions. (40 marks)

Outline **one** of the main ideas of *either* Darwin *or* Descartes and discuss its influence on the relationship between religion and science.

(80 marks)



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