



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
**State Examinations Commission**

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION — ORDINARY LEVEL**

FRIDAY, 19 JUNE — MORNING, 9.30 to 11.30

Total Marks: 320

***General Directions for Candidates***

CANDIDATES MUST ANSWER 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 QUEST FOR MEANING

Answer a) and b).

a) Profile the way in which an experience in life could make a person question the meaning of life. (20 marks)



(Source: smallbiztrends.com)

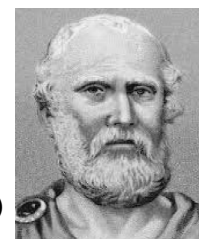
b) Examine how a key question about the meaning of life was expressed in a myth created by people who lived in ancient times. (20 marks)

QUESTION 2. RESPONSE TO THE QUEST FOR MEANING

Answer a) and b).

a) *Imagine that Plato was alive today and writing about the nature of reality.*

Based on your knowledge of Plato's ideas outline **one** point that you think he might make to people today about the nature of reality. (20 marks)



(Source: www.kidspast.com)

b) *Religious interpretations of human experience are expressed in different ways.*

Outline an example of how religious belief is expressed in **one** of the following ways of interpreting human experience:

- THE AESTHETIC
  - THE HOLY
  - THE POETIC
- (20 marks)

QUESTION 3. THE CONCEPT OF REVELATION

Answer a) and b).

a) Describe what is meant by the term 'divine revelation' in **one** major world religion that you have studied. (20 marks)

b) Outline **one** example of how the understanding of 'divine revelation' in a major world religion influences the religious practice of its members. (20 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) Outline **two** key characteristics of the Kingdom of God that Jesus emphasised in his preaching. (20 marks)
- b) Examine the impact that the resurrection of Jesus had on the first Christians' sense of community. (30 marks)
- c)
  - i. Explain how **one** of the first Christian communities came to be established in a location outside of Palestine.
  - ii. Outline how the first Christians in the place that you have referred to in *part c)i.* above, dealt with any problem they faced when establishing their community. (30 marks)

**SECTION C WORLD RELIGIONS**

**Answer a), b) and c).**

- a) Explain how inter-faith dialogue can play a role in resolving a conflict situation. (20 marks)
- b) Outline the origins of inter-faith dialogue between **two** of the following major world religions:  
 ◆ BUDDHISM ◆ CHRISTIANITY ◆ HINDUISM ◆ ISLAM ◆ JUDAISM (30 marks)
- c) Profile the origins and main religious practices of **one** of the following:  
 ❖ AN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION ❖ A CHINESE RELIGION  
 ❖ A NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT ❖ BAHA' I FAITH ❖ SIKH RELIGION (30 marks)

**SECTION D MORAL DECISION-MAKING**

**Answer a), b) and c).**

- a) Describe what is meant by **two** of the following terms in relation to moral decision-making:  
 ● AMORAL ● IMMORAL ● MORAL IMMATURITY (20 marks)
- b) Discuss the influence that **one** of the following can have on a person's growth towards moral maturity:  
 ● CULTURE ● MEDIA ● RELIGION (30 marks)
- c) Explain how moral failure is involved in **one** example of structural injustice that 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) and b).**

- a) Explain how **one** of the following has contributed to the understanding of gender in society today: ● BIOLOGY ● PHILOSOPHY ● PSYCHOLOGY ● SOCIOLOGY (40 marks)
- b) ● FOUNDERS & REFORMERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS ● RELIGIOUS WRITERS ● SOCIAL REFORMERS ● SPIRITUAL THINKERS
- Choose **one** woman, in any of the above categories and outline how she has contributed to a religious tradition using **each** of the following headings:
- The impact of her life and work on the people of her day. (20 marks)
  - Questions raised by her life and work for people today. (20 marks)

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

**Answer a) and b).**

- a) Profile how the influence of the Bible can be seen in **one** example of any of the following:  
● CONSTITUTIONS/DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE ● FAMOUS SPEECHES ● THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (40 marks)
- b) ● HANNAH'S SONG OF THANKS (1 Samuel 2:1-10) ● ISRAEL RESTORED (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) ● THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20:1-21)
- Choose **one** of the above texts and examine its importance in the Hebrew Scriptures using **each** of the following headings:
- The text's original background/context. (20 marks)
  - The role of the text in worship today. (20 marks)

### SECTION I RELIGION: THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

**Answer a) and b).**

- a) Outline the evidence of pre-Christian religious belief that can be found in **one** place in Ireland today. (40 marks)
- b) Compare the pattern of religious practice in Ireland today with that found in another part of Europe. (40 marks)

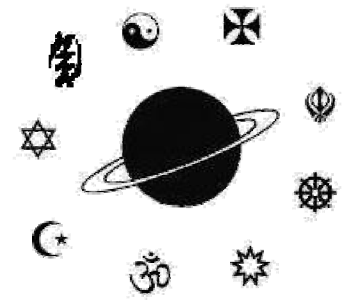
## SECTION J RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Answer a) and b).

a) Using examples, explain how certain questions are common to both religion and science. (40 marks)

b) Outline the concerns that religion and science each bring to current debates on **one** of the following issues:

- THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE
  - THE BEGINNINGS OF LIFE
- (40 marks)



(Source: Adapted from en.wikipedia.org)

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