



NSW Education Standards Authority

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Centre Number

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Student Number

**2025** HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

# Studies of Religion I

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## General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Write using black pen
- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page and page 5

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## Total marks: 50

### Section I – 15 marks (pages 2–5)

- Attempt Questions 1–11
- Allow about 25 minutes for this section

### Section II – 15 marks (pages 7–8)

- Attempt ONE question from Questions 12–16
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 30 minutes for this section

### Section III – 20 marks (pages 9–10)

- Attempt ONE question from Questions 17–21
- You must NOT choose the same Religious Tradition in both Section II and Section III
- Allow about 35 minutes for this section

## Section I — Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945

**15 marks**

**Attempt Questions 1–11**

**Allow about 25 minutes for this section**

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–10.

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- 1** Alex attended a Catholic church but now attends a Pentecostal church.
- What is this an example of?
- A. Polytheism
  - B. Reconciliation
  - C. Interfaith dialogue
  - D. Denominational switching
- 2** Which of the following best accounts for why Australia has become a nation of many faiths?
- A. Protectionism
  - B. People rejecting religion
  - C. Post-World War II immigration
  - D. The growing acceptance of secularism
- 3** What is a continuing effect of dispossession on Aboriginal spiritualities?
- A. Kinship links have remained.
  - B. Totemic diversity has remained.
  - C. Connection to European practices and culture have been lost.
  - D. Cultural practices, land and ancestral teachings have been lost.

- 4 An aim of the National Council of Churches in Australia is to foster the
- A. promotion of ecumenical gatherings.
  - B. formation of a new religious tradition.
  - C. creation of a Christian denomination in Australia.
  - D. development of a Christian ecumenical sacred text.
- 5 Which of the following terms describes the recognition of past wrongs by non-Aboriginal people, and the building of respectful relationships with Aboriginal Peoples?
- A. Assimilation
  - B. Integration
  - C. Reconciliation
  - D. Segregation
- 6 Which of the following is most likely a secular activity?
- A. Studying at a religious school
  - B. Attending a graduation ceremony
  - C. A Christian family praying at a church service
  - D. Participating in an interdenominational fundraiser
- 7 Which of the following best explains the importance of ceremonial life in Aboriginal spirituality?
- A. It is purely used for social gatherings.
  - B. It is only performed during times of crisis and natural disasters.
  - C. It allows for the unified expression of beliefs for all worldviews.
  - D. It is a way to connect with the land, ancestors and spiritual beings.

- 8 The Australian Survey of Social Attitudes is conducted annually. In 2018, it asked questions about the topic of religion.

Which of the following responses from the survey could be from an adherent of a New Age religion?

- A. I have confidence in mainstream church leadership.
  - B. I consider myself to be more spiritual than religious.
  - C. I put my complete trust in science rather than a religious faith.
  - D. I believe traditional religion is as relevant today as it was in the past.
- 9 What was the outcome of the Wik decision?
- A. It abolished the concept of Native Title.
  - B. It overturned the declaration of *terra nullius*.
  - C. It determined that Native Title could coexist with pastoral leases.
  - D. It introduced constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 10 Statement 1: A finding of the 2021 Australian Census was that Christianity decreased by more than one million people, but it was still Australia's largest religious tradition.

Statement 2: From 2016 to 2021, Hinduism was the fastest growing major religious tradition in Australia.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are true.
- B. Both statements are false.
- C. Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- D. Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.



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## Studies of Religion I

### Section II — Religious Tradition Depth Study

**15 marks**

**Attempt ONE question from Questions 12–16**

**Choose a DIFFERENT Religious Tradition in Section II from the one you choose in Section III**

**Allow about 30 minutes for this section**

Answer the question in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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#### **Question 12 — Buddhism (15 marks)**

- (a) Describe how ONE significant practice expresses ONE belief of Buddhism. **3**
- (b) Explain TWO ethical teachings relevant to ONE of the following areas: **5**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics.
- (c) Evaluate how ONE significant person or school of thought, other than the Buddha, provides direction for a meaningful life for Buddhist adherents. **7**

#### **Question 13 — Christianity (15 marks)**

- (a) Describe how ONE significant practice expresses ONE belief of Christianity. **3**
- (b) Explain TWO ethical teachings relevant to ONE of the following areas: **5**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics.
- (c) Evaluate how ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Jesus, provides direction for a meaningful life for Christian adherents. **7**

**Question 14 — Hinduism (15 marks)**

- (a) Describe how ONE significant practice expresses ONE belief of Hinduism. **3**
- (b) Explain TWO ethical teachings relevant to ONE of the following areas: **5**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics.
- (c) Evaluate how ONE significant person or school of thought, other than The Vedas, provides direction for a meaningful life for Hindu adherents. **7**

**Question 15 — Islam (15 marks)**

- (a) Describe how ONE significant practice expresses ONE belief of Islam. **3**
- (b) Explain TWO ethical teachings relevant to ONE of the following areas: **5**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics.
- (c) Evaluate how ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Muhammad and the Four Rightly Guided Caliphs, provides direction for a meaningful life for Islamic adherents. **7**

**Question 16 — Judaism (15 marks)**

- (a) Describe how ONE significant practice expresses ONE belief of Judaism. **3**
- (b) Explain TWO ethical teachings relevant to ONE of the following areas: **5**
- Bioethics
  - Environmental ethics
  - Sexual ethics.
- (c) Evaluate how ONE significant person or school of thought, other than Abraham and Moses, provides direction for a meaningful life for Jewish adherents. **7**

## Section III — Religious Tradition Depth Study

**20 marks**

**Attempt ONE question from Questions 17–21**

**Choose a DIFFERENT Religious Tradition in Section III from the one you chose in Section II**

**Allow about 35 minutes for this section**

Answer the question in the Sections II and III Writing Booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

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Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
  - incorporate significant aspects of religion to illustrate your answer
  - communicate using language and terminology appropriate to the study of religion
  - present ideas clearly in a cohesive response
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### **Question 17 — Buddhism** (20 marks)

*What is chosen to be upheld in ethical decisions is shaped by sources such as sacred texts or lived experience and how they help adherents navigate the world today.*

With reference to the stimulus, analyse how the ethical teachings of Buddhism guide adherents to navigate the world today.

In your response, refer to ONE of the following areas:

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics.

### **Question 18 — Christianity** (20 marks)

*What is chosen to be upheld in ethical decisions is shaped by sources such as sacred texts or lived experience and how they help adherents navigate the world today.*

With reference to the stimulus, analyse how the ethical teachings of Christianity guide adherents to navigate the world today.

In your response, refer to ONE of the following areas:

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics.

**Please turn over**

**Question 19 — Hinduism (20 marks)**

*What is chosen to be upheld in ethical decisions is shaped by sources such as sacred texts or lived experience and how they help adherents navigate the world today.*

With reference to the stimulus, analyse how the ethical teachings of Hinduism guide adherents to navigate the world today.

In your response, refer to ONE of the following areas:

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics.

**Question 20 — Islam (20 marks)**

*What is chosen to be upheld in ethical decisions is shaped by sources such as sacred texts or lived experience and how they help adherents navigate the world today.*

With reference to the stimulus, analyse how the ethical teachings of Islam guide adherents to navigate the world today.

In your response, refer to ONE of the following areas:

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics.

**Question 21 — Judaism (20 marks)**

*What is chosen to be upheld in ethical decisions is shaped by sources such as sacred texts or lived experience and how they help adherents navigate the world today.*

With reference to the stimulus, analyse how the ethical teachings of Judaism guide adherents to navigate the world today.

In your response, refer to ONE of the following areas:

- Bioethics
- Environmental ethics
- Sexual ethics.

**End of paper**